

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We end the 20th Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to reflect on our hopes and dreams for our children. No better moment to make big plans for our nation. No better moment than today.

Today we are experiencing a remarkable American renaissance. Twenty million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been.

We are experiencing not only a renaissance of the American economy, but something even more important: a renewal of the American spirit. Across our land we see a revival of responsibility. . . a renewal of the bonds of community. Who would have thought that in just seven years we could cut the welfare rolls in half, and moved millions from welfare to work? Who would have thought that we could cut crime by one quarter, to its lowest level in more than 30 years? Who would have thought that we could reverse virtually every terrible social trend of the last few decades, from teen pregnancy going down, to adoptions going up? Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend.

Tonight it is clear: Our nation is prepared for the new century.

It is also clear that the American people – by the hard work they do every day – deserve the credit, and our thanks. My gratitude also goes to the many of you, here in this chamber, who

have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political stalemate, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, a best-selling book asked: “What went wrong?”

But in the best traditions of our nation, of the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all; but also responsibility from all. That’s how you build a community of all.

That’s how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by denigrating government but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. That’s how we have cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That’s how we have protected our environment – not with old-style regulations but with new approaches and technologies.

That’s how we ended welfare as we knew it – by ending dependency and empowering millions to go to work. That’s how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – by offering new approaches, like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. That’s how we have opened the doors of college to all – with HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more Pell Grants, and more affordable college loans. That’s how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps. And that’s how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – by expanding trade with more than 270 new agreements and extending our values around the world.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. We have built our bridge to the 21st Century. Now, let us lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called “the long look ahead.”

Let us look beyond this year, even beyond this decade, and ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise? What are our biggest challenges, and how will we meet them?

Tonight, let us pledge:

At a time of unprecedented economic growth, let’s bring prosperity into every community in America.

At a time when our people are living longer than ever, let’s ensure that they are also living better – and healthier.

At a time when technology is transforming our world, let's realize its full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

These are big goals. We may not reach them this year. But I believe we will reach them. And we will get there the same way we got here: not in one single leap, but step by step – always building on our progress, moving forward, gaining ground.

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's get moving. This year, let's strengthen Social Security. Let's modernize Medicare with a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. Let's pass a real patients' bill of rights. Let's pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Let's pass meaningful hate-crimes legislation. Let's raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the beginning of our journey.

Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era -- an agenda rooted in responsibility. I will also propose new ways to create a stronger and more inclusive community...

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

For seven years we have pursued a simple strategy on education: Invest more, and demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have opened the doors of college to all with more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut. We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet, with the help of the Vice President's E-rate program. And for two years in a row, Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This Congress must continue that support.

With these and other efforts, our students are learning more. Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test.

And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Schools like Beaufort [BYOU-fert] Elementary in Beaufort, South Carolina. Five years ago, Beaufort was classified as one of the state's worst-performing schools. But under a new principal, Ruth Summerlin, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs for students who were behind. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. Ruth Summerlin is with us here tonight.

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America--schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons – schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools – to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards – and to beat them.

We know that our children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 150,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this increase, plus greater investment in early learning, we can take the first step toward providing universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers and principals. Tonight, I propose new efforts to help states and school districts recruit the best and brightest people to teaching, train principals as leaders and get rid of bad ones. And we must finish the job of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size.

We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose new investments to make immediate, urgent repairs to our schools. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools

safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

We know that we must turnaround failing schools – or shut them down. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts the resources to do so. This year, let's double that investment. Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

We must also do more to help high school students prepare for, and succeed in, college. We must increase tutoring and mentoring efforts, bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via the Internet, and offer disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. [TK: Schumer/ college tax ideas]

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. I would add “the working family,” for it is through work that we support our families, and pass on our values to our children. That is why the basic goal of so much of what we have done—from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage—has been to encourage and reward work; to give more opportunities for a better life to all families responsible enough to work for it.

Simply put: When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should follow. To your standard of living, to your savings, to your self-esteem:

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for low-income working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to dramatically expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans in 1998 work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight I propose that we expand opportunity by substantially expanding the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that this tax credit rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work, and expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That's enough for the average family to pay [a full month's mortgage] or for 8 months of health care coverage. And it's an added incentive to make their way into the middle class. They're working hard for it. We should help them to reach it.

For people who play by the rules, there's something else that should be within reach: their place of work. But two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – to let more Americans live where opportunities abound. This year, let's

more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

Wherever they live, working parents need quality child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for 1.25 million children. But child care should be better, safer, and more affordable. It's what our children deserve and what working parents need. My child care initiative would increase and improve care for 150,000 more children. And it's time we make the child care tax credit refundable to help families who need it most. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

We must do everything we can to find families for children who have none. Consider this: in the last four years, we have increased the number of children adopted out of the foster care system by 30 percent. Tens of thousands more children now enjoy the warmth and confidence that comes from having a permanent home. We are improving foster care for the children it serves, and supporting those who turn 18 and leave foster care without a permanent home. Tonight, I want to honor the person who led our Administration's efforts to achieve these goals, someone who has worked tirelessly for children as long as I have known her: our First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Three years ago, we created a new way for hard-pressed working families to provide health care for their children: the Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. But we must do more. As Vice President Gore has been saying, if states are looking to insure more children, they should go where the children are – in schools, churches, and child-care centers. And we should take the next step and enroll their parents, too. Nine million of them are eligible, but uninsured. And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. We should allow them to buy into Medicare.

Affordable and available care must also be quality care. Our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

And let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Today, women earn 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. My budget provides much needed resources to enforce equal pay laws, and to train women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. That will go a long way toward opportunity and dignity for working women.

This year, I am proposing a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

Franklin Roosevelt once said that "personal responsibility, guided by collective conscience, is the discipline of democracy." We have no greater responsibility than to love and support the children we bring into this world. Yet nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in

poverty than children with both parents at home. I know many single mothers do a magnificent job of raising their children. But their task is made infinitely harder when there is no father to contribute income and love; to share the burdens and joys of parenthood; to teach the boys to be men and the girls to expect respect from men. Four years ago, we made an historic reform of welfare that has helped millions of mothers move from dependency on a welfare check to the dignity of a paycheck. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off, and the teenage birth rate is falling.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should say: we'll help you do right by your children, but you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

Helping absent parents and others join the culture of work is good not just for them and their families. At a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, it is also good for our economy. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving the welfare roles. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients in good jobs at good wages. Yet these companies need still more new workers. And they say they are increasingly willing to hire from a growing pool of potential labor: the half-million ex-offenders who leave our prisons every year. Tonight, I propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible to employers, their families, and their communities.

For our economy to continue to enjoy rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that our corporations find not just new workers to hire, but new opportunities to invest, and new markets in which to sell. I believe these new markets exist right here in America—in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous opportunities in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we have the means to expand the circle of opportunity wide enough to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I believe businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in new markets abroad. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$12 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones.

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. So let's work together to finish the job.

Last July, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, let's honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases by more than \$1 billion our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure. Indian Country is a new market America should not – and must not – ignore.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I was concerned it would work well in good times but not as well in bad times. In recent years, our family farms have endured droughts and floods and financial crises abroad. Our New Markets Initiative will help them diversify their economic base. But let's also do more than mend the farm safety net – let's strengthen it.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on another challenge: the growing "digital divide" between those who have access to the new economy and those who don't. But the very technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can join in building our nation. My budget creates 1,000 new technology centers to connect poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also helps mobilize the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Because you can't get in the game until you have the tools to play.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

As we move to master the possibilities of the new economy at home, we must also lead in shaping a global economy that extends our prosperity – and expresses our values.

Our international trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and make sure it grows fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. And it means remembering that a global economy based on rules is far preferable than one with no rules at all.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules we do. And when it does, America's companies and workers should gain new opportunities in every sector or

China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

At a moment when American power is unrivaled and the world is coming together around ideals we have lived by and died for, we have a responsibility to lead. Never forget the Americans who struggled to give us this chance. Never forget that hundreds of millions of people live in peace today because of the Americans who rest in peace in graves marked and unmarked across the world. We have come too far, sacrificed too much, to stop the world and get off now; we must continue to shape the world. So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will shape the 21st century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders trying to cling to power or make brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But when our interests and our values are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For history teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction because of who they are, it is our common humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update on Israel-Syria; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of the role America played in bring peace to Northern Ireland... in helping to end the bloodletting in East Timor...in supporting efforts to end Africa's cruel wars.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return home to Kosovo last year. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who've shown how both power and persuasion can serve the cause of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the

peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, the man who did so much to start it went back one more time to save it, and now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our determination to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, we face a Russia weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But never forget how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a 1000 years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part to help.

As for China, we must promote our interest with firmness, but not fear. China cannot buy its stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces empowering its people to seek a better life. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

A third question for the new century is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire the means to undermine our defenses, and make us live in fear again.

Thanks in part to the biggest counter-terrorism operation in our history, the millennial celebrations passed without a violent attack. But this age-old threat, magnified by modern tools of destruction, remains real.

To prevent terrorists and potential adversaries from acquiring deadly weapons, we must work with Russia to keep nuclear weapons secure and continue to reduce our arsenals. We must restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran's, and continuing to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And we must strength global standards against proliferation. That is why I am committed to working with the Senate on a bipartisan basis to rebuild a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations, while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my balanced budget devotes \$2 billion to defend America's cyberspace against hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st century would will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We just cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the hopeful transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989,

the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must sometimes struggle to deliver for their people.

We must stand by democracies like Columbia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. My budget calls for a new \$150 million investment in the global fight against AIDS and other infectious killers. And I will call on our partners in the G-7 and around the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines to countries that might otherwise never be able to afford them. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day. We could choose to see our role as a burden. I choose to see it as a blessing, a privilege, a responsibility.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform.

We must also continue to fund the 1 percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Here is another heartening statistic. The overall crime rate in America has dropped every year for the past seven years—the longest continuous decline in crime ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that is safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We ought to dedicate ourselves to making America the safest big country in the world.

We must begin by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and gave up a chance to require Brady background checks at gun shows and child safety locks for all new handguns. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states have licenses for gun purchasers as well.

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books. I say, we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we should do more. We must hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. It's time for the gun industry to take responsibility too, and reform the way it does business -- and help bring down gun violence in America.

Another vital measure we can take to reduce the crime rate is to provide more supervision, and demand more responsibility, from the hundreds of thousands of offenders who leave our prisons every year. We know that those on parole or probation who use drugs are [tk]-times more likely than others to commit another crime, but half as likely to do so if they get drug treatment. We must provide them that drug treatment, along with drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

The tragic school shootings in Littleton and elsewhere have been a terrible reminder of how vulnerable our children are to violence—and how much more we must do, at all levels of society, to protect them. Last year, I launched a national grassroots campaign to bring experts and local communities together to identify the most effective responses to youth violence. We also began funding efforts by local communities to develop comprehensive solutions to school violence, and this year we must increase our support of this vital endeavor.

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, we must go farther. Let's do as the First Lady has suggested, and give parents what they most need: one rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce.

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We also have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. In the sage words of Theodore Roosevelt, “We are not building this country of ours for a day.” We must “make sure it lasts through the ages.”

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe. Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their

economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles – cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon – from the laboratory to the showroom floor.

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles that promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life.

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

And with longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old ~~in the 21st century~~. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

As the Internet expands, a greater and greater fraction of human knowledge will be literally at our fingertips. Our ability to share ideas, experiences and dreams across the boundaries of space and time, can bind all the world's people in a powerful web of wisdom and wealth.

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

Science and technology are also energizing our economy, raising productivity without raising inflation. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is

more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it.

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good.

COMMUNITY

In 18TK, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income Americans who give deserve what wealthier Americans can get: a tax deduction for contributions to charity.

We can also do more to bring communities of faith into the circle of service. Faith-based organizations work tirelessly everyday to help Americans fight drug and alcohol abuse and to provide opportunities for young people to get back on the right track or to stay out of trouble in

the first place. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups.

We can do even more to elevate the cause of citizen service. When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veteran of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics and lifeskills education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

Two years ago, Hillary and I created the White House Millennium Council to help bring Americans together--to reflect on where we have been as a nation—who we are—what we want to be. This fall, the First Lady hosted one of America's leading geneticists at a millennium evening discussion at the White House. He affirmed what faith has taught us. He said all humanity, genetically, is 99.9 percent the same. In large ways and small, it is easy to forget that truth. But honest and real differences can only be explored, confronted and worked through, and diversity can only be celebrated when we recognize that the most important fact of life is our common humanity.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot turn our backs on the climate of hate that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas.

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

My fellow Americans, this is the seventh time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, vast frontiers of possibility yet to be explored.

The children of the future will see that this moment was earned through America's drive for discovery and our enduring quest for freedom and opportunity for all. Not even the most farsighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to the unprecedented heights of peace and prosperity that we enjoy today.

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political stalemate, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, a best-selling book asked: "What went wrong?"

But in the best traditions of our nation, of the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all; but also responsibility from all. That's how you build a community of all.

That's how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by denigrating government but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. That's how we have cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That's how we have protected our environment – not with old-style regulations but with new approaches and technologies.

That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – by ending dependency and empowering millions to go to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – by offering new approaches, like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. That's how we have opened the doors of college to all – with HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more Pell Grants, and more affordable college loans. That's how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps. And that's how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – by expanding trade with more than 270 new agreements and extending our values around the world.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. We have built our bridge to the 21st Century. Now, let us lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called "the long look ahead."

Let us look beyond this year, even beyond this decade, and ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise? What are our biggest challenges, and how will we meet them?

Tonight, let us pledge:

At a time of unprecedented economic growth, let's bring prosperity into every community in America.

At a time when our people are living longer than ever, let's ensure that they are also living better – and healthier.

At a time when technology is transforming our world, let's realize its full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

These are big goals. We may not reach them this year. But I believe we will reach them. And we will get there the same way we got here: not in one single leap, but step by step – always building on our progress, moving forward, gaining ground.

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's get moving. This year, let's strengthen Social Security. Let's modernize Medicare with a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. Let's pass a real patients' bill of rights. Let's pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Let's pass meaningful hate-crimes legislation. Let's raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the beginning of our journey.

Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era—an agenda rooted in responsibility, and designed to create a stronger and more inclusive community. At its core is a simple, powerful, fundamental principle: "Opportunity for all."

This new agenda updates an old American value for the Information Age. Two centuries ago, at our nation's founding, opportunity meant, most of all, the freedom to carve a farm and an existence out of the forest frontier. Fifty years ago, opportunity meant a high school education – or even the G.I. Bill – and a job for life. Today, opportunity means something different. It means having a computer and knowing how to use it. It means changing careers and a lifetime of learning. It means mastering the tools and technologies of the new economy, in which ideas and information are the keys to success.

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. They must be guided, first and foremost, by our faith that all children can learn and all adults can succeed.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

For seven years we have pursued a simple strategy on education: Invest more, and demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. And for two years in a row, Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This Congress must continue that support.

With these and other efforts, our students are learning more. Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-fert] Elementary in South Carolina. Five years ago, Beaufort was classified as one of the state's worst-performing schools. But under a new principal, Ruth Summerlin, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs for students who were behind. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. Ruth Summerlin is with us here tonight.

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America -- schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons -- schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools -- to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards -- and to beat them.

We know that our children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 150,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this increase, plus greater investment in early learning, we can take the first step toward providing universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers and principals. Tonight, I propose new efforts to help states and school districts recruit the best and brightest

people to teaching, train principals as leaders and get rid of bad ones. And we must finish the job of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size.

We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose new investments to make immediate, urgent repairs to our schools. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

We know that we must turnaround failing schools – or shut them down. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts the resources to do so. This year, let's double that investment. Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

We must also do more to help high school students prepare for, and succeed in, college. We must increase tutoring and mentoring efforts, bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via the Internet, and offer disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. [TK: Schumer/ college tax ideas]

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. I would add “the working family,” for it is through work that we support our families, and pass on our values to our children. That is why the basic goal of so much of what we have done -- from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage -- has been to encourage and reward work; to give more opportunities for a better life to all families responsible enough to work for it.

Simply put: When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should follow. To your standard of living, to your savings, to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for low-income working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to dramatically expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans in 1998 work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight I propose that we expand opportunity by substantially expanding the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that this tax credit rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work, and expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That's enough for the average family to pay three months' mortgage or eight months of health care

coverage. And it's an added incentive to make their way into the middle class. They're working hard for it. We should help them to reach it.

For people who play by the rules, there's something else that should be within reach: their place of work. But two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – to let more Americans live where opportunities abound. This year, let's more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

Wherever they live, working parents need quality child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for 1.25 million children. But child care should be better, safer, and more affordable. It's what our children deserve and what working parents need. My child care initiative would increase and improve care for 150,000 more children. And it's time we make the child care tax credit refundable to help families who need it most. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

Three years ago, we created a new way for hard-pressed working families to provide health care for their children: the Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. But we must do more. As Vice President Gore has been saying, if states are looking to insure more children, they should go where the children are – in schools, churches, and child-care centers. And we should take the next step and enroll their parents, too. Nine million of them are eligible, but uninsured. And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. We should allow them to buy into Medicare.

[Tipper Gore, Mental Health – TK]

And let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Today, women earn 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. My budget provides much needed resources to enforce equal pay laws, and to train women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. That will go a long way toward opportunity and dignity for working women.

This year, I am proposing a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

Franklin Roosevelt once said that “personal responsibility, guided by collective conscience, is the discipline of democracy.” We have no greater responsibility than to love and support the children we bring into this world. Yet nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. I know many single mothers do a magnificent job of raising their children. But their task is made infinitely harder when there is no father to contribute income and love; to share the burdens and joys of parenthood; to teach the boys to be men and the girls to expect respect from men. Four years ago, we made an historic reform of welfare that has helped millions of mothers move from dependency on a welfare check to the

dignity of a paycheck. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off, and the teenage birth rate is falling.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should say: we'll help you do right by your children, but you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

Helping absent parents and others join the culture of work is good not just for them and their families. At a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, it is also good for our economy. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving the welfare rolls. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Yet these companies need still more new workers. And they say they are increasingly willing to hire from a growing pool of potential labor: the half-million ex-offenders who leave our prisons every year. Tonight, I propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible employees, family members, and citizens.

For our economy to continue to enjoy rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that our corporations find not just new workers to hire, but new opportunities to invest, and new markets in which to sell. I believe these new markets exist right here in America—in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous opportunities in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we have the means to expand the circle of opportunity wide enough to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I believe businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in new markets abroad. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$12 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

At a moment when American power is unrivaled and the world is coming together around ideals we have lived by and died for, we have a responsibility to lead. Never forget the Americans who struggled to give us this chance. Never forget that hundreds of millions of people live in peace today because of the Americans who rest in peace in graves marked and unmarked across the world. We have come too far, sacrificed too much, to stop the world and get off now; we must continue to shape the world. So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will shape the 21st century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders trying to cling to power or make brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But when our interests and our values are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For history teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction because of who they are, it is our common humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update on Israel-Syria; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of the role America played in bring peace to Northern Ireland... in helping to end the bloodletting in East Timor...in supporting efforts to end Africa's cruel wars.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return home to Kosovo last year. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who've shown how both power and persuasion can serve the cause of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, the man who did so much to start it went back one more time to save it, and now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working

government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our determination to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, we face a Russia weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But never forget how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a 1000 years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part to help.

As for China, we must promote our interest with firmness, but not fear. China cannot buy its stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces empowering its people to seek a better life. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

A third question for the new century is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire the means to undermine our defenses, and make us live in fear again.

Thanks in part to the biggest counter-terrorism operation in our history, the millennial celebrations passed without a violent attack. But this age-old threat, magnified by modern tools of destruction, remains real.

To prevent terrorists and potential adversaries from acquiring deadly weapons, we must work with Russia to keep nuclear weapons secure and continue to reduce our arsenals. We must restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran's, and continuing to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And we must strength global standards against proliferation. That is why I am committed to working with the Senate on a bipartisan basis to rebuild a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations, while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my balanced budget devotes \$2 billion to defend America's cyberspace against hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st century would will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We just cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the hopeful transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must sometimes struggle to deliver for their people.

We must stand by democracies like Columbia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. My budget calls for a new \$150 million investment in the global fight against AIDS and other infectious killers. And I will call on our partners in the G-7 and around the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines to countries that might otherwise never be able to afford them. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day. We could choose to see our role as a burden. I choose to see it as a blessing, a privilege, a responsibility.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform.

We must also continue to fund the 1 percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Here is another heartening statistic. The overall crime rate in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline in crime ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make America the safest big country in the world.

We must begin by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and gave up a chance to require Brady background checks at gun shows and child safety locks for all new

handguns. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states have licenses for gun purchasers as well.

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books. I say, we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we should do more. We must hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. It's time for the gun industry to take responsibility too, and reform the way it does business -- and help bring down gun violence in America.

Another vital measure we can take to reduce the crime rate is to provide more supervision, and demand more responsibility, from the hundreds of thousands of offenders who leave our prisons every year. We know that those on parole or probation who use drugs are [tk]-times more likely than others to commit another crime, but half as likely to do so if they get drug treatment. We must provide them that drug treatment, along with drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

The tragic school shootings in Littleton and elsewhere have been a terrible reminder of how vulnerable our children are to violence—and how much more we must do, at all levels of society, to protect them. Last year, I launched a national grassroots campaign to bring experts and local communities together to identify the most effective responses to youth violence. We also began funding efforts by local communities to develop comprehensive solutions to school violence, and this year we must increase our support of this vital endeavor.

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, we must go farther. Let's give parents what they most need: one rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has championed this idea, and been a champion of children and families as long as I have known her, your First Lady and my wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. And because of new technologies, we also have the opportunity to do so in ways that enhance economic growth.

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles – cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon – from the laboratory to the showroom floor.

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles. They promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life.

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

These and other technologies could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it.

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good.

COMMUNITY

In 18TK, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income Americans who give deserve what wealthier Americans can get: a tax deduction for contributions to charity.

We can also do more to bring communities of faith into the circle of service. Faith-based organizations work tirelessly everyday to help Americans fight drug and alcohol abuse and to provide opportunities for young people to get back on the right track or to stay out of trouble in the first place. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups.

We can do even more to elevate the cause of citizen service. When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America's leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight. Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems

to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us all.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot ignore the hatred that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas. Rather than give into hate, the Byrd family transformed their hate to a new foundation for racial reconciliation. We're honored to have [TK Byrd] with us tonight.

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

My fellow Americans, this is the seventh time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, vast frontiers of possibility yet to be explored.

The children of the future will see: generations of Americans earned this moment – earned this opportunity – and we have an obligation to make the most of it. Not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to these unprecedented heights of prosperity and peace. And we can only imagine the heights to which we will climb in this new century.

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession

of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is vital not just for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our plans to open new trade opportunities with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we do so, we will help Americans master the new economy . . . and help others to become masters of their own future.

Still, our modern world is bedeviled by our most ancient failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders clinging to power or waging war on their neighbors. History teaches that big wars start small. And when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, it is our common humanity that suffers.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference to make, we must be peacemakers. We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update; essential that America does its share.] We should be proud of our role in building peace from Northern Ireland, to East Timor, to Africa . . . in promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey . . . and in defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, and made it possible for a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic, and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who, each in his own way, has given his best – and America's best – to the cause of peace. In Kosovo, when Slobodan Milosevic unloosed his terror, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – flying straight into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring home the pilot of a downed American plane. And in Northern Ireland, when the peace process stalled, I asked the man who had done so much to start it to go back again to save it. And now, thanks to George Mitchell, the people of Northern Ireland finally have a working government representing all parties. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, you have our gratitude, and our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

A central challenge of this new century is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, Russia is weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But so much else has changed: 5,000 Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving by our side, keeping peace in the Balkans. Russia's long journey to democracy may be difficult, it may not be complete; but it is profoundly important to America and the world. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part.

Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is vital not just for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our plans to open new trade opportunities with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we do so, we will help Americans master the new economy . . . and help others to become masters of their own future.

Still, our modern world is bedeviled by our most ancient failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders clinging to power or waging war on their neighbors. History teaches that big wars start small. And when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, it is our common humanity that suffers.

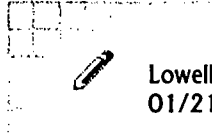
America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference to make, we must be peacemakers. We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update; essential that America does its share.] We should be proud of our role in building peace from Northern Ireland, to East Timor, to Africa . . . in promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey . . . and in defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, and made it possible for a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic, and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who, each in his own way, has given his best – and America's best – to the cause of peace. In Kosovo, when Slobodan Milosevic unloosed his terror, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – flying straight into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring home the pilot of a downed American plane. And in Northern Ireland, when the peace process stalled, I asked the man who had done so much to start it to go back again to save it. And now, thanks to George Mitchell, the people of Northern Ireland finally have a working government representing all parties. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, you have our gratitude, and our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

A central challenge of this new century is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, Russia is weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But so much else has changed: 5,000 Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving by our side, keeping peace in the Balkans. Russia's long journey to democracy may be difficult, it may not be complete; but it is profoundly important to America and the world. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part.



Lowell A. Weiss
01/21/2000 09:26:55

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP, Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: enviro and science & technology

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have no higher obligation to our children, and their children, than to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor this commitment – and to finally put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much land in the continental United States.

But our communities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a major new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks rather than parking lots, and parents don't sit in endless traffic when they could be home with their kids. Tonight, we propose to strengthen this initiative with new funding to help communities build advanced transit systems and save farms, parks, and other precious open spaces.

As we work to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

For seven years we have pursued a simple strategy on education: Invest more, and demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. And for two years in a row, Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This Congress must continue that support. (Applause?)

With these and other efforts, our students are learning more. Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-fert] Elementary in South Carolina. Five years ago, Beaufort was classified as one of the state's worst-performing schools. But under a new principal, Ruth Summerlin, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs for students who were behind. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. Ruth Summerlin is with us here tonight.

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America -- schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons -- schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools -- to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

failing schools?

We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards -- and to beat them?

¹⁶⁰ We know that our children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 150,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this increase, plus greater investment in early learning, we can ~~take the first step~~ toward providing universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America. [check w/VP]

build the foundation for

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers and principals. Tonight, I propose ~~new efforts~~ to help states and school districts recruit ~~the best and brightest~~ ^{and train}

a \$1 billion plan to improve teacher quality. ~~It can~~
It will

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 19, 2000

FOR FILE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: J. TERRY EDMONDS 

SUBJECT: REVISED SOTU DRAFT

Attached please find a revised draft of your 2000 State of the Union Address. This reflects your edits as well as substantial changes recommended by the working group we convened today: Mark Penn, Bob Shrum, Sid Blumenthal, Maria Echaveste, Bruce Reed and others. We have also restructured the speech, giving it a framework that pairs opportunity with responsibility.

We look forward to working with you to further refine this draft. Thank you.

EYES ONLY

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We end the 20th Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to reflect on our hopes and dreams for our children. No better moment to make big plans for our nation. No better moment than today.

Today we are experiencing a remarkable American renaissance. Twenty million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been.

We are experiencing not only a renaissance of the American economy, but something even more important: a renewal of the American spirit. Across our land we see a revival of responsibility. . . a renewal of the bonds of community. Who would have thought that in just seven years we could cut the welfare rolls in half, and moved millions from welfare to work? Who would have thought that we could cut crime by one quarter, to its lowest level in more than 30 years? Who would have thought that we could reverse virtually every terrible social trend of the last few decades, from teen pregnancy going down, to adoptions going up? Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend.

Tonight it is clear: Our nation is prepared for the new century.

As always

It is also clear that the American people – by the hard work they do every day – deserve the credit, and our thanks. My gratitude also goes to the many of you, here in this chamber, who

*bridge metaphor
where*

have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

It all began Lloyd Benson -

(Guthrie) Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political stalemate, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, a best-selling book asked: "What went wrong?"

the title is

But in the best traditions of our nation, of the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all; ~~but also~~ responsibility from all. That's how you build a community of all *Americans*.

That's how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by denigrating government but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. That's how we have cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That's how we have protected our environment – not with old-style regulations but with new approaches and technologies.

That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – by ending dependency and empowering millions to go to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – by offering new approaches, like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. That's how we have opened the doors of college to all – with HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more Pell Grants, and more affordable college loans. That's how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps. And that's how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – by expanding trade with more than 270 new agreements and extending our values around the world.

Studying against ...

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. We have built our bridge to the 21st Century. Now, let us lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called "the long look ahead."

— attempting to relax & not renew my life

Let us look beyond this year, even beyond this decade, and ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise? What are our biggest challenges, and how will we meet them?

Tonight, let us pledge:

At a time of unprecedented economic growth, let's bring prosperity into every community in America.

At a time into record surpluses

At a time when our people are living longer than ever, let's ensure that they are also living better – and healthier.

science *their*
At a time when technology is transforming our world, let's realize ~~its~~ full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

law enforcement
At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

When American are living longer than ever - let's keep going
health care *woody is a great nation* *we will reach them*
These are big goals. We may not reach them this year. But I believe we will reach them.

America the world -
And we will get there the same way we got here: not in one single leap, but step by step – always building on our progress, moving forward, gaining ground.

extending its life *let's keep going*
Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's get moving. This year, let's strengthen Social Security. Let's modernize Medicare with a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. Let's pass a real patients' bill of rights. Let's pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Let's pass meaningful hate-crimes legislation. Let's raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the beginning of our journey.

Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era—an agenda rooted in responsibility, and designed to create a stronger and more inclusive community. At its core is a simple, powerful, fundamental principle: "Opportunity for all."

This new agenda updates an old American value for the Information Age. Two centuries ago, at our nation's founding, opportunity meant, most of all, the freedom to carve a farm and an existence out of the forest frontier. Fifty years ago, opportunity meant a high school education – or even the G.I. Bill – and a job for life. Today, opportunity means something different. It means having a computer and knowing how to use it. It means changing careers and a lifetime of learning. It means mastering the tools and technologies of the new economy, in which ideas and information are the keys to success.

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. They must be guided, first and foremost, by our faith that all children can learn and all adults can succeed.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

at end
we can do all these things
still have
progress - love

For seven years we have pursued a simple strategy on education: Invest more, and demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. And for two years in a row, Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This Congress must continue that support.

With these and other efforts, our students are learning more. Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-fert] Elementary in South Carolina. Five years ago, Beaufort was classified as one of the state's worst-performing schools. But under a new principal, Ruth Summerlin, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs for students who were behind. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. Ruth Summerlin is with us here tonight. *Thank you for proving what our children can do,*

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America -- schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons -- schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools -- to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards -- and to beat them.

We know that our children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 150,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this increase, plus greater investment in early learning, we can take the first step toward providing universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers and principals. Tonight, I propose new efforts to help states and school districts recruit the best and brightest

*Thank - Congress - Adoption - Helping children
and I want to thank the FL*

people to teaching, train principals as leaders and get rid of bad ones. And we must finish the job of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size.

how much & how many -
We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose new investments to make immediate, urgent repairs to our schools. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

We know that we must turnaround failing schools – or shut them down. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts the resources to do so. This year, let's double that investment. Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

We must also do more to help high school students prepare for, and succeed in, college. We must increase tutoring and mentoring efforts, bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via the Internet, and offer disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. [TK: Schumer/college tax ideas] *1.4 million hear up - regulations to college - [build up] so economics of going*

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. I would add “the working family,” for it is through work that we support our families, and pass on our values to our children. That is why the basic goal of so much of what we have done -- from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage -- has been to encourage and reward work; to give more opportunities for a better life to all families responsible enough to work for it.

Shuman
Simply put: When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should follow. ~~To~~ your standard of living, to your savings, to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for low-income working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to dramatically expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans in 1998 work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight I propose that we expand opportunity by substantially expanding the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that this tax credit rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work, and expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That's enough for the average family to pay three months' mortgage or eight months of health care

coverage. And it's an added incentive to make their way into the middle class. They're working hard for it. We should help them to reach it.

For people who play by the rules, there's something else that should be within reach: their place of work. But two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – to let more Americans live where opportunities abound. This year, let's more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

Wherever they live, working parents need quality child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for 1.25 million children. But child care should be better, safer, and more affordable. It's what our children deserve and what working parents need. My child care initiative would increase and improve care for 150,000 more children. And it's time we make the child care tax credit refundable to help families who need it most. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

Three years ago, we created a new way for hard-pressed working families to provide health care for their children: the Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. But we must do more. As Vice President Gore has been saying, if states are looking to insure more children, they should go where the children are – in schools, churches, and child-care centers. And we should take the next step and enroll their parents, too. Nine million of them are eligible, but uninsured. And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. We should allow them to buy into Medicare.

[Tipper Gore, Mental Health – TK] *- mental health conference*
if we want to reward working families to make sure
and let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Today, women earn 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. My budget provides much needed resources to enforce equal pay laws, and to train women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. That will go a long way toward opportunity and dignity for working women.

again
This year, I am proposing a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

Franklin Roosevelt once said that "personal responsibility, guided by collective conscience, is the discipline of democracy." We have no greater responsibility than to love and support the children we bring into this world. Yet nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. I know many single mothers do a magnificent job of raising their children. But their task is made infinitely harder when there is no father to contribute income and love; to share the burdens and joys of parenthood; to teach the boys to be men and the girls to expect respect from men. Four years ago, we made an historic reform of welfare that has helped millions of mothers move from dependency on a welfare check to the

dignity of a paycheck. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off, and the teenage birth rate is falling.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should say: we'll help you do right by your children, but you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

Helping absent parents and others join the culture of work is good not just for them and their families. At a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, it is also good for our economy. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving the welfare rolls. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Yet these companies need still more new workers. And they say they are increasingly willing to hire from a growing pool of potential labor: the half-million ex-offenders who leave our prisons every year. Tonight, I propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible employees, family members, and citizens.

new hire - roses

For our economy to continue to enjoy rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that our corporations find not just new workers to hire, but new opportunities to invest, and new markets in which to sell. I believe these new markets exist right here in America—in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous opportunities in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we have the means to expand the circle of opportunity wide enough to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I believe businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in new markets abroad. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$12 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our

Check

inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones.

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. So *I thank* let's work together to finish the job. *explain we're doing more than last year*

Last July, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, let's honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases by more than \$1 billion our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure. Indian Country is a new market America should not – and must not – ignore. *secured*

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I was concerned it would work well in good times but not ~~as~~ *they* well in bad times. In recent years, ~~our family~~ *they* farms have endured droughts and floods and ~~financial crises abroad.~~ *historically been price down to* Our New Markets Initiative will help them diversify their economic base. But let's also do more than mend the farm safety net – let's strengthen it. *We simply must do more to strengthen the farm safety net.*

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on another challenge: the growing “digital divide” between those who have access to the new economy and those who don't. But the very technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can join in building our nation. My budget creates 1,000 new technology centers to connect poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also helps *maybe it* mobilize the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access *lead* in low-income areas. Because you can't get in the game until you have the tools to play.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

philosophy

As we move to master the possibilities of the new economy at home, we must also lead in shaping a global economy that extends our prosperity – and expresses our values.

Our international trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and make sure it grows fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. And it means remembering that a global economy based on rules is far preferable than one with no rules at all.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules we do. And when it does, America's companies and workers should gain new opportunities in every sector of China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

At a moment when American power is unrivaled and the world is coming together around ideals we have lived by and died for, we have a responsibility to lead. Never forget the Americans who struggled to give us this chance. Never forget that hundreds of millions of people live in peace today because of the Americans who rest in peace in graves marked and unmarked across the world. We have come too far, sacrificed too much, to stop the world and get off now; we must continue to shape the world. So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will shape the 21st century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders trying to cling to power or make brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But when our interests and our values are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For history teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction because of who they are, it is our common humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update on Israel-Syria; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of the role America played in bring peace to Northern Ireland... in helping to end the bloodletting in East Timor...in supporting efforts to end Africa's cruel wars.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return home to Kosovo last year. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who've shown how both power and persuasion can serve the cause of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, the man who did so much to start it went back one more time to save it, and now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working

biological & chemical warfare

government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our determination to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, we face a Russia weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But never forget how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a 1000 years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part to help.

As for China, we must promote our interest with firmness, but not fear. China cannot buy its stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces empowering its people to seek a better life. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

A third question for the new century is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire the means to undermine our defenses, and make us live in fear again.

Thanks in part to the biggest counter-terrorism operation in our history, the millennial celebrations passed without a violent attack. But this age-old threat, magnified by modern tools of destruction, remains real.

To prevent terrorists and potential adversaries from acquiring deadly weapons, we must work with Russia to keep nuclear weapons secure and continue to reduce our arsenals. We must restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran's, and continuing to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And we must strength global standards against proliferation. That is why I am committed to working with the Senate on a bipartisan basis to rebuild a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. *big idea*
and capture
** underneath all debate - speculation*
world trade power question
interdependent - reduced tension

We are also developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations, while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my balanced budget devotes \$2 billion to defend America's cyberspace against hackers, criminals and potential adversaries. *invested*
spare
1 employee
1 hacker
1 attack
so we can
centrally
reducing our things
fundamental in
manuscript

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st century would will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We just cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the hopeful transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must sometimes struggle to deliver for their people.

all DNC speech
for person to rhetoric

We must stand by democracies like Columbia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. My budget calls for a new \$150 million investment in the global fight against AIDS and other infectious killers. And I will call on our partners in the G-7 and around the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines to countries that might otherwise never be able to afford them. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day. We could choose to see our role as a burden. I choose to see it as a blessing, a privilege, a responsibility.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform.

We must also continue to fund the 1 percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Here is another heartening statistic. The overall crime rate in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline in crime ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make America the safest big country in the world.

We must begin by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and gave up a chance to require Brady background checks at gun shows and child safety locks for all new

considered

from an input am clip

handguns. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

reference - father of dead child - Columbine -

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states have licenses for gun purchasers as well.

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books. I say, we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we should do more. We must hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. ~~It's time for the gun industry to take responsibility~~ *they'll then join* *(apart)* too, and reform the way it does business -- and help bring down gun violence in America.

60-70 min
Another vital measure we can take to reduce the crime rate is to provide more supervision, and demand more responsibility, from the hundreds of thousands of offenders who leave our prisons every year. We know that those on parole or probation who use drugs are [tk]-times more likely than others to commit another crime, but half as-likely to do so if they get drug treatment. We must provide them that drug treatment, along with drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time. *- reduce recidivism*

community efforts
The tragic school shootings in Littleton and elsewhere have been a terrible reminder of how vulnerable our children are to violence—and how much more we must do, at all levels of society, to protect them. Last year, I launched a national grassroots campaign to bring experts and local communities together to identify the most effective responses to youth violence. We also began funding efforts by local communities to develop comprehensive solutions to school violence, and this year we must increase our support of this vital endeavor. *post*

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, we must go farther. Let's give parents what they most need: one rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has championed this idea, and been a champion of children and families as long as I have known her, your First Lady and my wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schultz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

*maybe - Michael J. Fox - Peanuts
Christopher
Reeves
Squire*

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. And because of new technologies, we also have the opportunity to do so in ways that enhance economic growth.

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

— see last year — Don't have to — we disagree.

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

— Big idea —

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

add livability —

Climate Change tax credit

Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles – cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon – from the laboratory to the showroom floor.

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles. They promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life.

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

These and other technologies could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it.

do we want global warming here - (think about)

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good.

Jesse

COMMUNITY

In 18TK, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

*changed
made
to just
that's
why
partnership*

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income Americans who give deserve what wealthier Americans can get: a tax deduction for contributions to charity.

We can also do more to bring communities of faith into the circle of service. Faith-based organizations work tirelessly everyday to help Americans fight drug and alcohol abuse and to provide opportunities for young people to get back on the right track or to stay out of trouble in the first place. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups.

Challenge seniors- words

We can do even more to elevate the cause of citizen service. When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the AmeriCorps Reserves to activate former ~~AmeriCorps members~~ in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America's leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight. Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems

to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us all.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot ignore the hatred that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas. Rather than give into hate, the Byrd family transformed their hate to a new foundation for racial reconciliation. We're honored to have [TK Byrd] with us tonight.

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

problem of hyper spirit - make it clear next America way - challenge + protect

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

to religious

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

My fellow Americans, this is the ~~seventh~~ ^{eight} time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, ~~new~~ ^{even larger} frontiers of possibility yet to be explored.

The children of the future will see: generations of Americans earned this moment – earned this opportunity – and we have an obligation to make the most of it. Not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to these unprecedented heights of prosperity and peace. And we can only imagine the heights to which we will climb in this new century.

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession

millennial - as has our Dream - we can be forever young -

of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

never in my lifetime has our
country ^{country} been so tempted to
Drama - let it slide - diverted
but it
would be
a terrible
mistake

- ① Aging section
- ② Welfare roll - virtually in half -
6.8 million

Huge - over 5 million people -

Health care - Kennedy Kassebaum
90% uninsured
uninsured

Stats - equal pay - but advances -
still only making 75%

The agenda we laid out
requires investment -
but -

PG 50

Draft5 01/19/00 11:15pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We end the 20th Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to reflect on our hopes and dreams for our children. No better moment to make big plans for our nation. No better moment than today.

Today we are experiencing a remarkable American renaissance. Twenty million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership

PG 50

ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been.

We are experiencing not only a renaissance of the American economy, [DRUG ABUSE STATISTIC, AMONG THE YOUNG] but something even more important: a renewal of the American spirit. Across our land we see a revival of responsibility. . . a renewal of the bonds of community. Who would have thought that in just seven years we could cut the welfare rolls in half, and moved millions from welfare to work? Who would have thought that we could cut crime by one quarter, to its lowest level in more than 30 years? Who would have thought that we could reverse virtually every terrible social trend of the last few decades, from teen pregnancy going down, to adoptions going up? Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend.

Tonight it is clear: Our nation is prepared for the new century. [BUILD OUR BRIDGE]

It is also clear that the American people – by the hard work they do every day – deserve the credit, and our thanks. My gratitude also goes to the many of you, here in this chamber, who have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you. [AS ALWAYS, TALK DIRECTLY TO AMERICAN PEOPLE. SEE LAST NIGHT'S SPEECH]

[IT ALL BEGAN W/ THE DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 1993. INSTRUMENTAL IS LLOYD BENTSEN. THANK LLOYD BENTSEN. I WANT TO THANK SOMEONE ELSE WHO CAST TIE-BREAKING VOTE – AL GORE]

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000.[GRIDLOCK FOR STALEMATE] Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political stalemate, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, [THE TITLE OF THE] best-selling book asked: “What went wrong?”

[GENERALLY, WE ASSUME TOO MUCH W/ OUR SHORT HAND. WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT THAT]

But in the best traditions of our nation, of the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all; responsibility from all, [A COMMUNITY OF ALL AMERICANS.]. That’s how you build a community of all.

That’s how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by denigrating government but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. That’s how we have cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That’s how we have protected our environment – not with old-style regulations but with new approaches and

technologies. [NOT BY REGULATING ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENVIRO PROGRESS, BUT ACHIEVEING BOTH...]

That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – by ending dependency and empowering millions to go to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – by offering new approaches, like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. That's how we have opened the doors of college to all – with HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more Pell Grants, and more affordable college loans. That's how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps. And that's how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – by expanding trade with more than 270 new agreements and extending our values around the world. [LOVELY PARAGRAPH, THE LAST ONE SHOULD BE MORE – STANDING AGAINST/ STANDING FOR – SEE POTUS LANGUAGE]

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. We have built our bridge to the 21st Century. Now, let us lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called “the long look ahead.”

Let us look beyond this year, even beyond this decade, and ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise? What are our biggest challenges, and how will we meet them?

Tonight, let us pledge:

At a time of unprecedented economic growth, let's bring prosperity into every community in America.

At a time when our people are living longer than ever, let's ensure that they are also living better – and healthier.

At a time when technology is transforming our world, let's realize its full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

[AT TIME RECORD SUPRLUS, WE SHOULD BE DEBT FREE FOR FIRST TIME.
NO MORE THAN 10 CHALLENGES. LET'S KEEP GOING UNTIL AMERICA'S DEBT

FREE. ALSO DO ONE ON THE ENVIRONMENT. SEE ABOVE: AT A TIME WHEN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD...SHOULD BE ONE ON AGING. TIME WHEN PEOPLE LIVING LONGER THAN EVER, LET'S KEEP GOING AND PROVIDE QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE FOR EVERYONE IN AMERICA. WE SHOULD MAKE A NOTE FOR HIM THAT WE NEED ONE ON AMERICA IN THE WORLD. JUST MAKE A NOTE FOR HIM.]

These are big goals WORTHY OF A GREAT NATION. WE WILL NOT REACH THEM ALL THIS YEAR, BUT WE WILL REACH THEM. IF WE STAND ON THE PATH THAT GOT US HERE AND DO IT STEP BY STEP, ETC.. We may not reach them this year. But I believe we will reach them. And we will get there the same way we got here: not in one single leap, but step by step – always building on our progress, moving forward, gaining ground.

[AT THE POINT WHERE WE STOP SPENDING MONEY, WE NEED TO ADD: IF WE DO ALL THESE THINGS, WE WILL MAKE PROGRESS ON ALL OUR GOALS THAT REQUIRE INVESTMENT, AND STILL HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET, SURPLUS EACH YEAR, AND MEET OUR GOAL OF ELIMINATING THE DEBT BY 2015. STRUCTURE: WE NEED TO DEAL W/ ALL THESE BIG GOALS/ APPROACH THE POLICIES AS THE NEXT BIG STEPS IN MEETING THESE LONG TERM GOALS. DON'T REFERENCE THEM DIRECTLY, EVER. THE NEXT BIG STEP IS...]

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's get moving. This year, let's strengthen Social Security. EXTENDING ITS LIFE BEYOND THE BABYBOOMER GENERATION. LET'S REFORM AND MODERNIZE MEDICARE, LENGTHENING ITS LIFE AND ADDING A VOLUNTARY PRESCRIPTION DRUG

BENEFIT. Let's modernize Medicare with a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. Let's pass a real patients' bill of rights. Let's pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Let's pass meaningful hate-crimes legislation. Let's raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the beginning of our journey.

Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era—an agenda rooted in responsibility, and designed to create a stronger and more inclusive community. At its core is a simple, powerful, fundamental principle: “Opportunity for all.”

This new agenda updates an old American value for the Information Age. Two centuries ago, at our nation's founding, opportunity meant, most of all, the freedom to carve a farm and an existence out of the forest frontier. Fifty years ago, opportunity meant a high school education – or even the G.I. Bill – and a job for life. Today, opportunity means something different. It means having a computer and knowing how to use it. It means changing careers and a lifetime of learning. It means mastering the tools and technologies of the new economy, in which ideas and information are the keys to success.

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. They must be guided, first and foremost, by our faith that all children can learn and all adults can succeed.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

For seven years we have pursued a simple strategy on education: Invest more, and demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. And for two years in a row, Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This Congress must continue that support.

With these and other efforts, our students are learning more. Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-fert] Elementary in South Carolina. Five years ago, Beaufort was classified as one of the state's worst-performing schools. But under a new principal, Ruth Summerlin, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs for students who were behind. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. Ruth Summerlin is with us here tonight. [THANK YOU FOR PROVING WHAT OUR CHILDREN CAN DO]

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America -- schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons – schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools – to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards – and to beat them.

We know that our children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 150,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this increase, plus greater investment in early learning, we can take the first step toward providing universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers and principals. Tonight, I propose new efforts to help states and school districts recruit the best and brightest people to teaching, train principals as leaders and get rid of bad ones. And we must finish the job of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size.

We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. [NEW INVESTMENTS. HOW MUCH, HOW MONEY. TONIGHT I PROPOSE X DOLLARS TO MAKE X SCHOOLS ...] Tonight, I propose new investments to make immediate, urgent repairs to our schools. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

Ref
Webber
CINR
54687

We know that we must turnaround failing schools – or shut them down. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts the resources to do so. This year, let's double that investment. Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

[2 SENTENCES ON CHARTER SCHOOLS. HOW THEY ARE GROWING. WHEN I BECAME PRESIDENT, 2 CHARTER SCHOOLS, ETC.]

We must also do more to help high school students prepare for, and succeed in, college. We must increase tutoring and mentoring efforts, bring advanced placement courses to schools in

isolated rural areas via the Internet, and offer disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. [TK: Schumer/ college tax ideas] [HE WANTS TO REALLY BEEF UP THIS SECTION. FROM WHAT I SAID TODAY – NOT WHAT WAS WRITTEN. PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY GET OUT OF THIS. ALSO: GEAR UP . WE’VE REVOLUTIONIZED THE ECONOMICS OF GOING TO COLLEGE. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPT THINGS WE’VE DONE. 1.4 MILLION INNER-CITY KIDS. COUPLE OF SUBSTANTIVE GRAPHS. IF WE HAVE TO CUT ELSEWHERE, BUILD THIS UP. PUMP UP AREAS – EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE, CHIPS, PARENTS...]

see AS defined, speech take what chunk from the

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

[ADD FLOTUS AND ADOPTION. ADD ADOPTION – HOW SUCCESSFUL WE’VE BEEN. THANK CONGRESS FOR UNANIMOUS SUPPT, WE SHOULD SEE ADOPTION DAY EVENT THAT POTUS DID. FOR HELPING CHILDREN TO... SEE CATCH PHRASE FROM REMARKS. TOPPING OUT... AGING OUT... AND I WANT TO THANK THE FIRST LADY...]

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. I would add “the working family,” for it is through work that we support our families, and pass on our values to our children. That is why the basic goal of so much of what we have done -- from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage -- has been to encourage and reward work; to give more opportunities for a better life to all families responsible enough to work for it.

Simply put: When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should follow. To your standard of living, to your savings, to your self-esteem. [FROM YOUR STANDARD OF LIVING...]

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for low-income working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to dramatically expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans in 1998 work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight I propose that we expand opportunity by substantially expanding the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that this tax credit rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work, and expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That’s enough for the average family to pay three months’ mortgage or eight months of health care coverage. And it’s an added incentive to make their way into the middle class. They’re working hard for it. We should help them to reach it.

For people who play by the rules, there’s something else that should be within reach: their place of work. But two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – to let more Americans live where opportunities abound. This year, let’s

more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work. [POTUS WOULD CONSIDER LOSING THIS GRAPH. BUT, WE NEED TO BE MORE LITERAL; HE LIKE THE LAST SENTENCE – KEEP IT. HOUSING VOUCHERS, CASH BENEFITS HOUSING MORE AFFORDABLE. HOUSING VOUCHERS – CASH BENEFITS TO MAKE HOUSES MORE AFFORDABLE. TO HELP MORE LOW INCOME PEOPLE LIVE CLOSER TO THEIR JOBS.]

Wherever they live, working parents need quality child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for 1.25 million children. But child care should be better, safer, and more affordable. It's what our children deserve and what working parents need. My child care initiative would increase and improve care for 150,000 more children. And it's time we make the child care tax credit refundable to help families who need it most. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them. [ALSO: PUMP UP MONEY SITUATION IN CHILD CARE PARAGRAPH. FOR ALL THE MONEY WE'RE SPENDING, WE SHOULD BE HELPING MORE THAN 150,000. AFTER 1.25 MILLION SENTENCE ADD – BUT THAT IS JUST TINY FRACTION...10 PERCENT UNDER FEDERAL LAW, FIND OUT. ??]

Three years ago, we created a new way for hard-pressed working families to provide health care for their children: the Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. But we must do more. As Vice President Gore has been saying, if states are looking to insure more children, they should go where the children are – in schools, churches, and child-care centers. And we should take the next step and

enroll their parents, too. Nine million of them are eligible, but uninsured. And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. We should allow them to buy into Medicare.

[HE WANTS TO MAKE THIS BIGGER. THIS AND EDUCATION BIGGEST SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS WE HAVE. FILL THIS OUT. WANTS TO BEGIN CHIP GRAPH: IN SPITE OF OUR BEST EFFORTS, THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED AMERICANS ARE... WE'VE BEEN WORKING FOR IMPROVING ACCESS. IN THE 1997 BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT, CONGRESS PASSED THIS CHIP PROGRAM...NOW WE CAN REVERSE THE TREND. DOUBLE TO 2 MILLION CHILDREN. BUT WE HAVE THE FUNDS TO INSURE AT LEAST 2 MILLION MORE?? FACT CHECK. AS VP GORE HAS BEEN SAYING, CONNECT TO PARENTS, NOT CHILDREN. GORE WANTS CREDIT. WE SHOULD MAKE BIGGER DEAL. I PROPOSE NEW LEGISLATION TO MAKE THE PARENTS OF THESE CHILDREN ELIGIBLE. 9 MILLION WOULD BE ELIGIBLE. MEDICARE BUY-IN, WE NEED MORE EXPLANATION. LAST YEAR I SAID WE SHOULD HAVE ALLOWED THEM TO BUY IN TO MEDICARE, AND WE SHOULD ALSO HAVE GIVEN THEM TAX CREDIT TO MAKE THEM AFFORDABLE. GIVE THEM HELP TO DO IT. LAST YEAR, I PROPOSED XXX... 55-65 MANY OF WHOM HAVE RETIRED AND/OR LOST COVERAGE.]

[Tipper Gore, Mental Health – TK – TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE—NOT TOO WORKED UP]

IF WE WANT TO REWARD WORK AND FAMILIES, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS WAS TO MAKE SURE THAT MEN AND WOMEN GET EEQUALY PAY FOR EQUAL WORK. WE SHOULD PASS THE EQUAL PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT. WE NEED TO GET STATS IN HERE ** GET OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN HERE. WE'VE DONE A LOT OF THINGS FOR WORKING WOMEN. WOMEN'S UNEMPL RATE IS x, SINGLE PARENT POVERTY RATE IS xx, BUT WOMEN ONLY MAKING 75 CENTS...]And let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Today, women earn 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. My budget provides much needed resources to enforce equal pay laws, and to train women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. That will go a long way toward opportunity and dignity for working women.

ENFORCE PRESENT EQUAL PAY LAWS TO TRAIN MORE WOMEN TO ENFORCE EQUAL PAY LAWS.

This year, I AGAIN PROPOSE I am proposing a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

CUT BACK FATHERHOOD. WELFARE TO WORK AND PRISON. BUT REST CUT BACK. HERE'S WORK WE RECOGNIZE FATHER. SHOULD BE EMOTIONAL.

Franklin Roosevelt once said that "personal responsibility, guided by collective conscience, is the discipline of democracy." We have no greater responsibility than to love and support the children we bring into this world. Yet nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. I know many single mothers do a magnificent job of raising their children. But their task is made infinitely harder when there is no father to

contribute income and love; to share the burdens and joys of parenthood; to teach the boys to be men and the girls to expect respect from men. Four years ago, we made an historic reform of welfare that has helped millions of mothers move from dependency on a welfare check to the dignity of a paycheck. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off, and the teenage birth rate is falling.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should say: we'll help you do right by your children, but you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

Helping absent parents and others join the culture of work is good not just for them and their families. At a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, it is also good for our economy. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving the welfare rolls. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Yet these companies need still more new workers. And they say they are increasingly willing to hire from a growing pool of potential labor: the half-million ex-offenders who leave our prisons every year. Tonight, I propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible employees, family members, and citizens. [LIKED THIS PARAGRAPH]

For our economy to continue to enjoy rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that our corporations find not just new workers to hire, but new opportunities to invest, and new markets in which to sell. I believe these new markets exist right here in America—in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous opportunities in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we have the means to expand the circle of opportunity wide enough to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I believe businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in new markets abroad. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, LAST YEAR DIDN'T WE SPEND 15 BILLION – HOW'S IT BIGGER NOW AND HOW MUCH. THAT'S THE THIRD BIG THING. NEW MARKETS VERY IMPORTANT. to spur \$12 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones. [NEW MARKETS PLEASED W/ SET UP]

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. KILL THIS LINE: So let's work together to finish the job. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING W/ YOU...

EXPLAIN WE'RE DOING MORE THAN LAST YEAR...

Last July, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, let's honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases by more than \$1 billion our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure. Indian Country is a new market America should not – and must not – ignore.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I FEARED IT WOULD WORK WELL IN GOOD TIMES BUT NOT IN BAD TIMES – ESPECIALLY FOR FAMILY FARMERS. I N RECENT YEARS, THEY HAVE ENDURED DROUGHTS, FLOOD, AND HISTORICALLY LOW PRICES DUE TO FINANCIAL CRISES ABROAD. KILL NEW MARKETS SENTENCE. INSTEAD: WE SIMPLY MUST DO MORE TO STRENGTHEN THE FARM SAFETY NET. was concerned it would work well in good times but not as well in bad times. In recent years, our family farms have endured droughts and floods and financial crises abroad. Our New Markets Initiative will help them diversify their economic base. But let’s also do more than mend the farm safety net – let’s strengthen it.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on another challenge: the growing “digital divide” between those who have access to the new economy and those who don’t. But the very technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can join in building our nation. My budget creates 1,000 new technology centers to connect poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also helps mobilize the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Because you can’t get in the game until you have the tools to play. [LIKES THIS PARAGRAPH BUT MAKE IT DANCE A LITTLE MORE]

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

[HE LIKES ALL THIS, BUT PROPOSED BIG PICTURE SET-UP. UNDERNEATH ALL THE DEBATE ABOUT WORLD TRADE, IS LARGER QUESTION THAT WE LIVE IN MORE INTERDEPENDT WORLD. WE HAVE SHARED RESPONSIBILITY. CENTRAL REALITY OF OUR TIME: GLOBALIZATION IS IRREVERSABLE. [SEE DNC SPEECH FOR PASSION RHETORIC] NOT ONLY STRONG LEADERS BUT GOOD PARTNERS, INCLUDING TO THOSE WHO NEED A HELPING HAND. UN DUES/ FOREIGN AID/ DEBT RELIEF. FIT CTBT INTO THIS. BENEATH ALL THE DEBATES, THERE'S A LARGER QUESTION... WE SHOULD LOOK FOR MICHAEL ELLIOT BOOK, ARTICLE FROM FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CLINTON DOCTRINE IS THIS BUSINESS ABOUT GLOBALIZATION. AMERICA IS AT THE CENTER OF EVERY NETWORK MAKING A DIFFERENCE.]

As we move to master the possibilities of the new economy at home, we must also lead in shaping a global economy that extends our prosperity – and expresses our values.

Our international trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and make sure it grows fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. And it means remembering that a global economy based on rules is far preferable than one with no rules at all.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules we do. And when it does, America's companies and workers should gain new opportunities in every sector or

China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

At a moment when American power is unrivaled and the world is coming together around ideals we have lived by and died for, we have a responsibility to lead. Never forget the Americans who struggled to give us this chance. Never forget that hundreds of millions of people live in peace today because of the Americans who rest in peace in graves marked and unmarked across the world. We have come too far, sacrificed too much, to stop the world and get off now; we must continue to shape the world. So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will shape the 21st century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all

its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders trying to cling to power or make brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But when our interests and our values are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For history teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction because of who they are, it is our common humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update on Israel-Syria; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of the role America played in bring peace to Northern Ireland... in helping to end the bloodletting in East Timor...in supporting efforts to end Africa's cruel wars.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return home to Kosovo last year. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who've shown how both power and persuasion can serve the cause of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American

plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, the man who did so much to start it went back one more time to save it, and now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our determination to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, we face a Russia weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But never forget how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a 1000 years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part to help.

As for China, we must promote our interest with firmness, but not fear. China cannot buy its stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces empowering its people to seek a better life. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

A third question for the new century is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire the means to undermine our defenses, and make us live in fear again.

Thanks in part to the biggest counter-terrorism operation in our history, the millennial celebrations passed without a violent attack. But this age-old threat, magnified by modern tools of destruction, remains real. [ADD BIOCHEMTERRORISM, WARFARE, BIOLOGICAL AND CHEM WARFARE. HUGE BUDGET ITEM. JUST A REFERENCE]

To prevent terrorists and potential adversaries from acquiring deadly weapons, we must work with Russia to keep nuclear weapons secure and continue to reduce our arsenals. We must restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran's, and continuing to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And we must strength global standards against proliferation. That is why I am committed to working with the Senate on a bipartisan basis to rebuild a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations, while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my balanced budget devotes \$2 billion to defend America's cyberspace against hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st century would will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We just cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the hopeful transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must sometimes struggle to deliver for their people.

We must stand by democracies like Columbia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. My budget calls for a new \$150 million investment in the global fight against AIDS and other infectious killers. And I will call on our partners in the G-7 and around the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines to countries that might otherwise never be able to afford them. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our

children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day. We could choose to see our role as a burden. I choose to see it as a blessing, a privilege, a responsibility.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform.

We must also continue to fund the 1 percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Here is another heartening statistic. The overall crime rate in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline in crime ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make America the safest big country in the world.

We must begin by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and gave up a chance to require Brady background checks at gun shows and child safety locks for all new handguns. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress. [LAST YEAR CONGRESS CONSIDERED COMMON SENSE LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE BRADY BILL BACKGROUND CHECKS AT GUN SHOWS, CHILD SAFETY LOCKS. BAN THE IMPORTATION OF LARGE AMMUNITION CLIPS. INSTEAD – IN THE FACE OF ENORMOUS OPPOSITION, THE SENATE ROSE TO ITS RESPONSIBILITY AND COURAGEOUSLY PASSED THIS LEGISLATION W/ A TIE-BREAKING VOTE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT. THIS YEAR I HOPE THE HOUSE WILL FOLLOW SUIT BECAUSE OUR CHILDREN’S LIVES DEPEND ON IT. THEN: EMOTIONAL REFERENCE TO FATHER OF COLOMBINE KID, BIG MOMENT, IN THE FACE OF TERRIBLE HEARTBRAKING LOSS OF HIS SON, CHILDREN WHO ARE USING ASSAULT WEAPONS... MANAGED TO TRANSLATE HIS GRIEF INTO A COMMITMENT. MORE EMOTIONAL THAN JAMES BYRD DAUGHTER, AND WE SHOULD DO THIS INSTEAD. WHAT’S THE DEAL ON LIECING? PROPOSAL OR ADVOCATE. CAN WE FEDERALLY MANDATE THIS? *]

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states have licenses for gun purchasers as well.

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books. I say, we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we should do more. We must hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it. [IMPORTANT FOR VP AND FLOTUS]

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. It's time for the gun industry to take responsibility too, and reform the way it does business -- and help bring down gun violence in America. [AGAIN TOO FUCK YOU TO THE GUN INDUSTRY. THIS HAS TO BE OPEN HAND. TO THE GUN MANUF WHO ARE WORKING W/ US AND RISING TO RESPONSIBILITY, I THANK THEM AND I ASK THE OTHER MANUF TO STEP UP. MORE OF OPEN HAND TO GUN MANUFACTURERS. I ASK THE REST OF THE INDUSTRY TO JOIN THEM...]

Another vital measure we can take to reduce the crime rate is to provide more supervision, and demand more responsibility, from the hundreds of thousands of offenders who leave our prisons every year. We know that those on parole or probation who use drugs are [tk]-times more likely than others to commit another crime, but half as likely to do so if they get drug treatment. We must provide them that drug treatment, along with drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time. [YOU NEED TO BE CLEAR WHAT OBJECTIVES ARE... REDUCING RECIDIVISM. NOT SENDING SO MANY TO PRISON. STATS - 60 TO 70 PERCENT OF PEOPLE WHO COMMIT SECOND CRIME ARE DRUG ADDICTED. THAT COULD REDUCE # PEOPLE GOING BACK TO PRISON.]

5550 - School
2/3 of we know that two thirds of those who re-offend commit crimes and are sent back
~~The tragic school shootings in Littleton and elsewhere have been a terrible reminder of how vulnerable our children are to violence—and how much more we must do, at all levels of society, to protect them. Last year, I launched a national grassroots campaign to bring experts and local communities together to identify the most effective responses to youth violence. We also began funding efforts by local communities to develop comprehensive solutions to school violence, and this year we must increase our support of this vital endeavor. [WE COULD LIST IN PARTNERSHIP SECTION BUT RID GRAPH ON GRASSROOTS. TRANSITION TO COMMUNITY EFFORTS AND THE BRADY ISSUE. WHICH FLOTUS REFERENCE MAKES MORE SENSE.]~~

no know that two thirds of ex-offenders who commit another crime are sent back to prison for crimes made due to drug abuse. We also know that if they get no, treated, they go up to 70% less likely to commit another crime.

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, we must go farther. Let's give parents what they most need: one rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has championed this idea, and been a champion of children and families as long as I have known her, your First Lady and my wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton. [WORDY BUT OK]

[LOSE SHULTZ]

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

[CLEANUP TO GREAT LAKES. CHECK W/ FRAMPTON – HOW ARE WE KEEPING SCORE HOW MUCH LAND WE'RE PROTECTING]

We have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. And because of new technologies, we also have the opportunity to do so in ways that enhance economic growth.

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States. [CHECK W/ FRAMPTON]

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed. [ADD LIVABILITY]

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests. [DEVELOP BY HAVING CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES; ENERGY USE TO PROTECT ENVIRO. WE SHOULD FRAME – OLD IDEA WE CAN NOW SHOW THAT IS NOT THE WAY IT HAS TO BE. REFLECT ON AUTOPARTNERSHIPS. MAKE ENERGY USE PROTECTIVE ENVRIONEMENT. LOW INCOME HOUSING SAVE PEOPLE MONEY. SHOULD YOU DO THAT IN ENVRIONMENT SECTION OR SCIENCE/TECH. MORE TOWARD SCIENCE AND TECH – TO PROTECTING THE ENVIRONEMNT. THAT’S WHERE YOU SHOULD PUT LIVABILITY. AND PUT REST IN SCIENCE AND TECH. WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT IS THE LOOPHOLE THE ALLOWS OLD POWER PLANTS – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN. UPLIFTING AUTO INDUSTRY. SEE NOTE – SOMEONE WHO DESIGNED 70 MILE CAR/ BOX. DOE/ EPA – TRIP TO SAN BURNADINO HOUSING PROJECTS; DETROIT HOUSING SHOW. SEE NTL HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATIOIN.] [WE NEED TO TALK TO NEAL LANE – SEE HIM ON PLANE TOMORROW. BIG PICTURE. COHERANT PICTURE. W/ BIOTECH – AT BEGINNING CENTURY, LIFE EXPTENCY X YEARS OLD. NOW ... IF YOU MAKE IT TO 65, REACH 82. THAT’S WHERE AGING IS. BREAKTRHOUGH PARKINSON. GENOME PROJECT. ISOLATE. MICHAEL J. FOX. ADD SECTION ON SPACE. SPACE IS GOOD...ADD GLOBAL WARMING HERE. THAT’S WHERE TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE. TURN IT ON ITS HEAD. WE KNOW THAT WE’RE AFFECTING OUR ENVRIONMENT. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, JUST

LIKE... HOMEBUILDERS, CARS. CHECK ON 3 BILLION INCREASE. NSF, NIH, ONE YEAR/ THREE YEARS. LOSE KENNEDY. TIGHTEN AMERICORPS. CHALLENGE SENIORS TO DO MORE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE. PUT THEM TO WORK. LIVE LONG, DO SOMETHING. ERIC LANDER: DECIDE ON MAKING REFERENCE. FRANCIS COLLINS – DIRECTOR, ON GOV'T SIDE. BOX: AGAINST BYRD – JDP WILL DISCUSS. PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. HATE BASED TERRORISM. REALITY – OLD HUMAN FLAW TO FOCUS ON PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM US. PERSON BEING DRAGGED TO HIS DEATH BECAUSE BLACK OR GAY. SHOT BECAUSE HE'S PHILIPPINO/ JEWISH. FACE THE FACT THAT THIS IS HAPPENING IN OUR COUNTRY. NOT THE AMERICAN WAY. CELEBRATE DIVERSITY, NOT JUST TOLERATE IT. WE HAVE TO REJECT THESE ACTS. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO PASS HATE CRIMES. WHITE HOUSE OFFICE – RELIG LEADERS, CORP LEADERS TO LAWYERS. 8TH TIME HAD HIGH MOMENT. DID IT GET SENT OUT AS STATE OF THE UNION. * LOOK AT MILLENNIUM SPEECH AS DELIVERED. WE SEE GREAT EXPANSE OF AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENT. BEHIND US EVEN LARGER FRONTIERS OF POSSIBILITY. THEN WORK CLOSING. LET'S LOOK MILLENNIUM. DREAMS ARE WHERE ARE MEMORIES – AS LONG AS OUR DREAMS OUTWEIGH OUR MEMORIES, WE CAN BE FOREVER YOUNG. AMERICA MUST BE FOREVER YOUNG. AGING; LET'S LOOK AT WELFARE ROLLS – 6.8 MILLION OFF OF WELFARE. RILEY – HOW MANY HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS. HOW MANY HAVE HEALTHCARE INSURANCE MOVE FROM JOB TO JOB – KENNEDY KASSEBAUM. MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HELPED. 90 PERCENT OF KIDS IMMUNIZED. WHAT WE DID W/ KENNEDY KASSABAUM. STILL TOO MANY UNINSURED. POSITIVE LOOK. MORE

WOMEN WORKING – STILL MAKING ONLY 75. IN THE BEGINNING, MORE DRAMA ABOUT NEVER IN OUR LIFETIME HAVE WE HAD IT SO GOOD... WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE OUT OF DEBT. 2.000 DEBT MORTGAGES. REAL CAR PAYMENTS. IF WE CAN GET OUT OF DEBT, IMAGINE POSSIBILITIES FOR THOSE RESOURCES.].

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles – cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon – from the laboratory to the showroom floor. [THESE ARE NOT THREE NEW EFFORTS; 2 NEW. THIRD IS NOT. AUTO INDUSTRY – GRAPH NEEDS TO BE MORE UPBEAT AND PRETTY. MOVE TO TECHNOLOGY SECTION. CLEAN ENERGY/ TECHNOLOGY. CLOSING LOOPHOLE: HOW, WHO'S PISSED OFF, WHAT'S OUR ANSWER. THIRD ONE: WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO CLEAN ENERGY. WE CAN GIVE 2

EXAMPLES. ONE IS THE CAR THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS. DETROIT PROVING WE CAN DO THIS. TALK ABOUT ON THESE CARS GETTING 70-80 MPG. ALSO, TALK ABOUT HOUSING PROJECT IN SAN BERNADINO. APPLAUD DOE AND EPA. THEIR UTILITY BILLS DROPPED BY 40- PERCENT. NOW IT'S 65 PERCENT. TODAY TEHRE'S OUTDATED WAY OF THINKING ABOUT IT. YOU CAN'T BE RICH UNLESS YOU FOUL ENVIRONMENT. THEN ONCE YOU GET RICH YOU CLEAN IT UP. THIS DOESN'T WORK BECAUSE THE POLLUTANTS STAY IN THE AIR 100 YEARS. GOOD NEWS IS THIS IS A BIG IDEA THAT'S WRONG. IT'S SIMPLY NOT NECESSARY ANYMORE TO FOUL THE ENVIRONMENT TO GET RICH THANKS TO SCIENCE AND TECH. WILL INCLUDE CARS AND HOUSING PROJECT.]

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles. They promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life. [LOSE FIRST GRAPH. NEED NEW SETUP]

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for

cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress. [ADD SOMETHING ABOUT GENES AND BREAST CANCER AND BREAKTHROUGH ON PARKINSONS. MICHAEL J. FOX OR REEVE OR BOB SQUIRE. GRAPH ON BENEFITS OF SPACE AND BENEFITS HERE ON EARTH. – GET POLICY].

With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

These and other technologies could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research,

nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it. [HE WANTS TO KNOW IF THIS IS FOR ONE YEAR. NSF, NIH, ETC.]

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in

history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good. [GET RID OF KENNEDY QUOTE]

SENIORS W/ BIOMED. MORE ON LIFE EXPECTANCY. PEOPLE SHOULD NOT ONLY LIVE LONGER, BUT WELL. AGING.

COMMUNITY

In 1835, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

[TOO MANY WORDS AND NO MEAT. CHALLENGE SENIORS TO WORK W/KIDS.]

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income

Americans who give deserve what wealthier Americans can get: a tax deduction for contributions to charity. [TALKING TO ELI SEGAL. WE CAN LIST PARTNERSHIPS, WE HAVE CHANGED MODEL FOR GOV'T; LIST PARTERNSHIPS. SCHOOL VIOLENCE, CARS, TEEN PREGNANCY, ETC.]

We can also do more to bring communities of faith into the circle of service. Faith-based organizations work tirelessly everyday to help Americans fight drug and alcohol abuse and to provide opportunities for young people to get back on the right track or to stay out of trouble in the first place. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups.

We can do even more to elevate the cause of citizen service. When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America's leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight. Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us all.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot ignore the hatred that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas. Rather than give into hate, the Byrd family transformed their hate to a new foundation for racial reconciliation. We're honored to have [TK Byrd] with us tonight.

[HE SAID LIKED WORKING IN FOREIGN STUFF HERE. JUST REFERENCING
OK. WE SEE ALL ETHNIC PROBLEMS IN WORLD. FR NORTHERN IRELAND TO
BOSNIA TO MIDDLE EAST.. AND MENTION TERRORISM, BUT NO COUNTRY IS

EXEMPT. WE HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT IN THIS COUNTRY THE SAME STUFF HAPPENS. THE DRAGGING DEATH IN TEXAS. MURDER OF GAY MAN IN WYOMING. WE HAVE SEEN SHOOTING AND KILLINGS OF, AMERICANS OF AF AM, PHILLIPINO, KOREAN AMER, JEWISH, (SEE IF YOU CAN FIND MUSLIM). THIS IS IN OUR COUNTRY AND WE MUST MAKE CLEAR THIS IS NOT THE AMERICAN WAY. WE DON'T JUST TOLERATE OUR DIVERSITY, WE CELEBRATE IT. WE HAVE TO PROTECT IT.]

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every

American can help build the One America of our dreams. [RELIGIOUS LEADERS BEFORE LAWYERS IN LITANY]

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

My fellow Americans, this is the seventh EIGHTH? time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, vast frontiers of possibility yet to be explored. [AND BEFORE US, EVEN LARGER FRONTEIRS OF POSSIBLITY]

The children of the future will see: generations of Americans earned this moment – earned this opportunity – and we have an obligation to make the most of it. Not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to these unprecedented heights of prosperity and peace. And we can only imagine the heights to which we will climb in this new century. [WORDY, BUT I LIKE IT]

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a

new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

[REPRISING MILLENNIAL END. SEE DNC SPEECH. DREAMS OUTWEIGH MEMORIES. FOREVER YOUNG. DESTINY OF AMERICA TO BE FOREVER YOUNG. HE WANTS TO PUT: NOT ENOUGH DRAMA IN POSING CHOICE BEFORE US IN NEVER IN OUR LIFETIME RIFF. WORK IN HOW IT'S EASY TO RELAX, ... IT'S EASY TO ... THAT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE. WE HAVE AN OPPT OF A LIFETIME. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LIFETIME. AND WE CAN CHART THE COURSE IN THE NEXT 50 YEARS. ALSO: WE CAN WORK IN 6.8 MILL OFF WELFARE (GET #); EDUCATION SECTION, WE SHOULD SAY THAT OVER 5 MILLION HAVE USED HOPE SCHOLARSHIP AND LIFETIME LEARNING TAX CREDIT. IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTION, WE SHOULD SET IT UP STARTING W/ ADVANCES IN INSURING PEOPLE. KENNEDY-KASSEBAUM. 90 PERCENT KIDS IMMUNIZED. BUT STIL BELEAGURED. IN SECTION, STUFF TO CHOSE FROM. MORE DRAMA ON DEBT REDUCTION. WE NEED TO SAY: BY REDUCING DEFICIT, WE CUT INTEREST RATES, AVERAGE FAMILY, 200 OFF CAR PAYMENTS, ETC. (GET THOSE NUMBERS). PLAY UP THE DRAMA. GUARENTEE FAR GREATER PROSPERITY. I SAID ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, IF OUR DREAMS OUTWEIGH MEMORIES, WE CAN BE FOREVER YOUNG. AND THAT IS THE DESTINY OF AMERCA.]

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

dignity of a paycheck. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and ~~creating a national database to tracking~~ them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off, and the teenage birth rate is falling.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against ~~fathers~~ ^{Parents} who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should ^{from now on,} say: we'll help you do right by your children, but you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

Helping absent parents and others join the culture of work is good not just for them and their families. At a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, it is also good for our economy. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving the welfare rolls. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Yet these companies need still more new workers. And they say they are increasingly willing to hire from a growing pool of potential labor: the half-million ex-offenders who leave our prisons every year. Tonight, I propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible employees, family members, and citizens.

For our economy to continue to enjoy rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that our corporations find not just new workers to hire, but new opportunities to invest, and new markets in which to sell. I believe these new markets exist right here in America—in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous opportunities in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we have the means to expand the circle of opportunity wide enough to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I believe businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in new markets abroad. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$12 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our

dignity of a paycheck. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and ~~creating a national database to tracking~~ them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off, and the teenage birth rate is falling.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against ~~fathers~~ ^{parents} who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families.

And to absent ~~parents~~ ^{from now on,} who owe child support, we should say: we'll help you do right by your children, but you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

Helping absent parents and others join the culture of work is good not just for them and their families. At a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, it is also good for our economy. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving the welfare rolls. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Yet these companies need still more new workers. And they say they are increasingly willing to hire from a growing pool of potential labor: the half-million ex-offenders who leave our prisons every year. Tonight, I propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible employees, family members, and citizens.

For our economy to continue to enjoy rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that our corporations find not just new workers to hire, but new opportunities to invest, and new markets in which to sell. I believe these new markets exist right here in America—in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous opportunities in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we have the means to expand the circle of opportunity wide enough to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I believe businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in new markets abroad. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$12 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our

inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones.

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. So let's work together to finish the job.

Last July, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, let's honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases by more than \$1 billion our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure. Indian Country is a new market America should not – and must not – ignore.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I was concerned it would work well in good times but not as well in bad times. In recent years, our family farms have endured droughts and floods and financial crises abroad. Our New Markets Initiative will help them diversify their economic base. But let's also do more than mend the farm safety net – let's strengthen it.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on another challenge: the growing “digital divide” between those who have access to the new economy and those who don't. But the very technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can join in building our nation. My budget creates 1,000 new technology centers to connect poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also helps mobilize the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Because you can't get in the game until you have the tools to play.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

As we move to master the possibilities of the new economy at home, we must also lead in shaping a global economy that extends our prosperity – and expresses our values.

Our international trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and make sure it grows fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. And it means remembering that a global economy based on rules is far preferable than one with no rules at all.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules we do. And when it does, America's companies and workers should gain new opportunities in every sector of China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones.

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. So let's work together to finish the job.

Last July, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, let's honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases by more than \$1 billion our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure. Indian Country is a new market America should not – and must not – ignore.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I was concerned it would work well in good times but not as well in bad times. In recent years, our family farms have endured droughts and floods and financial crises abroad. Our New Markets Initiative will help them diversify their economic base. But let's also do more than mend the farm safety net – let's strengthen it.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on another challenge: the growing “digital divide” between those who have access to the new economy and those who don't. But the very technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can join in building our nation. My budget creates 1,000 new technology centers to connect poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also helps mobilize the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Because you can't get in the game until you have the tools to play.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

As we move to master the possibilities of the new economy at home, we must also lead in shaping a global economy that extends our prosperity – and expresses our values.

Our international trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and make sure it grows fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. And it means remembering that a global economy based on rules is far preferable than one with no rules at all.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules we do. And when it does, America's companies and workers should gain new opportunities in every sector or China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

At a moment when American power is unrivaled and the world is coming together around ideals we have lived by and died for, we have a responsibility to lead. Never forget the Americans who struggled to give us this chance. Never forget that hundreds of millions of people live in peace today because of the Americans who rest in peace in graves marked and unmarked across the world. We have come too far, sacrificed too much, to stop the world and get off now; we must continue to shape the world. So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will shape the 21st century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders trying to cling to power or make brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But when our interests and our values are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For history teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction because of who they are, it is our common humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update on Israel-Syria; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of the role America played in bring peace to Northern Ireland... in helping to end the bloodletting in East Timor...in supporting efforts to end Africa's cruel wars.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return home to Kosovo last year. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who've shown how both power and persuasion can serve the cause of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, the man who did so much to start it went back one more time to save it, and now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

At a moment when American power is unrivaled and the world is coming together around ideals we have lived by and died for, we have a responsibility to lead. Never forget the Americans who struggled to give us this chance. Never forget that hundreds of millions of people live in peace today because of the Americans who rest in peace in graves marked and unmarked across the world. We have come too far, sacrificed too much, to stop the world and get off now; we must continue to shape the world. So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will shape the 21st century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders trying to cling to power or make brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But when our interests and our values are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For history teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction because of who they are, it is our common humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update on Israel-Syria; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of the role America played in bring peace to Northern Ireland... in helping to end the bloodletting in East Timor...in supporting efforts to end Africa's cruel wars.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return home to Kosovo last year. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who've shown how both power and persuasion can serve the cause of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, the man who did so much to start it went back one more time to save it, and now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working

government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our determination to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, we face a Russia weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But never forget how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a 1000 years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part to help.

As for China, we must promote our interest with firmness, but not fear. China cannot buy its stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces empowering its people to seek a better life. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

A third question for the new century is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire the means to undermine our defenses, and make us live in fear again.

Thanks in part to the biggest counter-terrorism operation in our history, the millennial celebrations passed without a violent attack. But this age-old threat, magnified by modern tools of destruction, remains real.

To prevent terrorists and potential adversaries from acquiring deadly weapons, we must work with Russia to keep nuclear weapons secure and continue to reduce our arsenals. We must restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran's, and continuing to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And we must strength global standards against proliferation. That is why I am committed to working with the Senate on a bipartisan basis to rebuild a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations, while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my balanced budget devotes \$2 billion to defend America's cyberspace against hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st century would will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We just cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the hopeful transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must sometimes struggle to deliver for their people.

government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our determination to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, we face a Russia weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But never forget how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a 1000 years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part to help.

As for China, we must promote our interest with firmness, but not fear. China cannot buy its stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces empowering its people to seek a better life. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

A third question for the new century is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire the means to undermine our defenses, and make us live in fear again.

Thanks in part to the biggest counter-terrorism operation in our history, the millennial celebrations passed without a violent attack. But this age-old threat, magnified by modern tools of destruction, remains real.

To prevent terrorists and potential adversaries from acquiring deadly weapons, we must work with Russia to keep nuclear weapons secure and continue to reduce our arsenals. We must restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran's, and continuing to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And we must strength global standards against proliferation. That is why I am committed to working with the Senate on a bipartisan basis to rebuild a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations, while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my balanced budget devotes \$2 billion to defend America's cyberspace against hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st century would will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We just cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the hopeful transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must sometimes struggle to deliver for their people.

We must stand by democracies like Columbia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. My budget calls for a new \$150 million investment in the global fight against AIDS and other infectious killers. And I will call on our partners in the G-7 and around the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines to countries that might otherwise never be able to afford them. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day. We could choose to see our role as a burden. I choose to see it as a blessing, a privilege, a responsibility.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform.

We must also continue to fund the 1 percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Here is another heartening statistic. The overall crime rate in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline in crime ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make America the safest big country in the world.

We must begin by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and ~~gave up a~~ *failed* chance to require Brady background checks at gun shows and child safety locks for all new

We must stand by democracies like Columbia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. My budget calls for a new \$150 million investment in the global fight against AIDS and other infectious killers. And I will call on our partners in the G-7 and around the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines to countries that might otherwise never be able to afford them. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day. We could choose to see our role as a burden. I choose to see it as a blessing, a privilege, a responsibility.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform.

We must also continue to fund the 1 percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Here is another heartening statistic. The overall crime rate in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline in crime ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make America the safest big country in the world.

We must begin by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and ~~gave up a~~ *failed* ~~chance~~ to require Brady background checks at gun shows and child safety locks for all new

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 14, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND THE FIRST LADY
AT FOSTER CARE EVENT

Presidential Hall

5:45 P.M. EST

MRS. CLINTON: Welcome to the White House, and please be seated. This is a truly wonderful day. In a few minutes the President will sign into law landmark legislation that will strengthen our foster care system, and give hope and help to thousands of young people struggling to make a safe transition to adulthood and independence.

None of this would have been possible without so many of you in this room. I want to thank Secretary Donna Shalala and her team at HHS, including Mary Burdette and Pat Montoya; and former commissioner, Carol Williams. I want to thank many members of Congress, and particularly those who are here with us today -- Senator Rockefeller and Senator Collins, Senator Chafee, and Representative Cardin.

I want to thank Mayor Williams and his mother, Virginia, who welcomed him into her family when he was 3 years old and authorities were about to declare him unadoptable. They are among the best advertisements for the rewards and possibilities of adoption in America.

I want to thank the Child Welfare League of America, the Children's Defense Fund, and all of the tireless child advocates who work to raise awareness about this issue. The Casey Family Program and the Annie E. Casey Foundation have give great support to young people in transition.

And I'd also like very much to thank someone who I'm sure is with us in spirit, the late Senator John Chafee. On the Friday before he died, I called Senator Chafee to wish him a happy birthday. I also managed to do a little lobbying for the Foster Care Independence Act, which had hit a few roadblocks in the Senate. By the end of our conversation, I think we were both feeling reenergized and inspired to work even harder for the young people who were counting on this bill.

I understand that one of his last instructions to his staff was to set up meetings with senators he felt could be swayed to support the bill. We all know that had he lived, John Chafee would not have rested until he had won all of the votes he needed. So we are very grateful today to be joined by his colleagues and, particularly, his son, Senator Lincoln Chafee.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 14, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND THE FIRST LADY
AT FOSTER CARE EVENT

Presidential Hall

5:45 P.M. EST

MRS. CLINTON: Welcome to the White House, and please be seated. This is a truly wonderful day. In a few minutes the President will sign into law landmark legislation that will strengthen our foster care system, and give hope and help to thousands of young people struggling to make a safe transition to adulthood and independence.

None of this would have been possible without so many of you in this room. I want to thank Secretary Donna Shalala and her team at HHS, including Mary Burdette and Pat Montoya; and former commissioner, Carol Williams. I want to thank many members of Congress, and particularly those who are here with us today -- Senator Rockefeller and Senator Collins, Senator Chafee, and Representative Cardin.

I want to thank Mayor Williams and his mother, Virginia, who welcomed him into her family when he was 3 years old and authorities were about to declare him unadoptable. They are among the best advertisements for the rewards and possibilities of adoption in America.

I want to thank the Child Welfare League of America, the Children's Defense Fund, and all of the tireless child advocates who work to raise awareness about this issue. The Casey Family Program and the Annie E. Casey Foundation have give great support to young people in transition.

And I'd also like very much to thank someone who I'm sure is with us in spirit, the late Senator John Chafee. On the Friday before he died, I called Senator Chafee to wish him a happy birthday. I also managed to do a little lobbying for the Foster Care Independence Act, which had hit a few roadblocks in the Senate. By the end of our conversation, I think we were both feeling reenergized and inspired to work even harder for the young people who were counting on this bill.

I understand that one of his last instructions to his staff was to set up meetings with senators he felt could be swayed to support the bill. We all know that had he lived, John Chafee would not have rested until he had won all of the votes he needed. So we are very grateful today to be joined by his colleagues and, particularly, his son, Senator Lincoln Chafee.

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, we must go farther. Let's give parents what they most need: one rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has championed this idea, and been a champion of children and families as long as I have known her, your First Lady and my wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton. [WORDY BUT OK]

[LOSE SHULTZ]

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

[CLEANUP TO GREAT LAKES. CHECK W/ FRAMPTON – HOW ARE WE KEEPING SCORE HOW MUCH LAND WE'RE PROTECTING]

We have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. And because of new technologies, we also have the opportunity to do so in ways that enhance economic growth.

VP
announcement

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, we must go farther. Let's give parents what they most need: one rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has championed this idea, and been a champion of children and families as long as I have known her, your First Lady and my wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton. [WORDY BUT OK]

[LOSE SHULTZ]

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

[CLEANUP TO GREAT LAKES. CHECK W/ FRAMPTON – HOW ARE WE KEEPING SCORE HOW MUCH LAND WE'RE PROTECTING]

We have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. And because of new technologies, we also have the opportunity to do so in ways that enhance economic growth.

VP
announcement

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

*Saved
great
values*

Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States. [CHECK W/ FRAMPTON]

*add
note on
numbers:*

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed. [ADD LIVABILITY]

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

*Saved
great
haves*

Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States. [CHECK W/ FRAMPTON]

*add
note on
numbers*

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed. [ADD LIVABILITY]

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests. [DEVELOP BY HAVING CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES; ENERGY USE TO PROTECT ENVIRO. WE SHOULD FRAME – OLD IDEA WE CAN NOW SHOW THAT IS NOT THE WAY IT HAS TO BE. REFLECT ON AUTOPARTNERSHIPS. MAKE ENERGY USE PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT. LOW INCOME HOUSING SAVE PEOPLE MONEY. SHOULD YOU DO THAT IN ENVIRONMENT SECTION OR SCIENCE/TECH. MORE TOWARD SCIENCE AND TECH – TO PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT. THAT’S WHERE YOU SHOULD PUT LIVABILITY. AND PUT REST IN SCIENCE AND TECH. WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT IS THE LOOPHOLE THAT ALLOWS OLD POWER PLANTS – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN. UPLIFTING AUTO INDUSTRY. SEE NOTE – SOMEONE WHO DESIGNED 70 MILE CAR/ BOX. DOE/ EPA – TRIP TO SAN BERNARDINO HOUSING PROJECTS; DETROIT HOUSING SHOW. SEE NTL HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION.] [WE NEED TO TALK TO NEAL LANE – SEE HIM ON PLANE TOMORROW. BIG PICTURE. COHERANT PICTURE. W/ BIOTECH – AT BEGINNING CENTURY, LIFE EXPECTANCY X YEARS OLD. NOW ... IF YOU MAKE IT TO 65, REACH 82. THAT’S WHERE AGING IS. BREAKTHROUGH PARKINSON. GENOME PROJECT. ISOLATE. MICHAEL J. FOX. ADD SECTION ON SPACE. SPACE IS GOOD...ADD GLOBAL WARMING HERE. THAT’S WHERE TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE. TURN IT ON ITS HEAD. WE KNOW THAT WE’RE AFFECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, JUST

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests. [DEVELOP BY HAVING CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES; ENERGY USE TO PROTECT ENVIRO. WE SHOULD FRAME – OLD IDEA WE CAN NOW SHOW THAT IS NOT THE WAY IT HAS TO BE. REFLECT ON AUTOPARTNERSHIPS. MAKE ENERGY USE PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT. LOW INCOME HOUSING SAVE PEOPLE MONEY. SHOULD YOU DO THAT IN ENVIRONMENT SECTION OR SCIENCE/TECH. MORE TOWARD SCIENCE AND TECH – TO PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT. THAT’S WHERE YOU SHOULD PUT LIVABILITY. AND PUT REST IN SCIENCE AND TECH. WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT IS THE LOOPHOLE THE ALLOWS OLD POWER PLANTS – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN. UPLIFTING AUTO INDUSTRY. SEE NOTE – SOMEONE WHO DESIGNED 70 MILE CAR/ BOX. DOE/ EPA – TRIP TO SAN BERNARDINO HOUSING PROJECTS; DETROIT HOUSING SHOW. SEE NTL HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION.] [WE NEED TO TALK TO NEAL LANE – SEE HIM ON PLANE TOMORROW. BIG PICTURE. COHERANT PICTURE. W/ BIOTECH – AT BEGINNING CENTURY, LIFE EXPECTENCY X YEARS OLD. NOW ... IF YOU MAKE IT TO 65, REACH 82. THAT’S WHERE AGING IS. BREAKTHROUGH PARKINSON. GENOME PROJECT. ISOLATE. MICHAEL J. FOX. ADD SECTION ON SPACE. SPACE IS GOOD...ADD GLOBAL WARMING HERE. THAT’S WHERE TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE. TURN IT ON ITS HEAD. WE KNOW THAT WE’RE AFFECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, JUST

LIKE... HOMEBUILDERS, CARS. CHECK ON 3 BILLION INCREASE. NSF, NIH, ONE YEAR/ THREE YEARS. LOSE KENNEDY. TIGHTEN AMERICORPS. CHALLENGE SENIORS TO DO MORE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE. PUT THEM TO WORK. LIVE LONG, DO SOMETHING. ERIC LANDER: DECIDE ON MAKING REFERENCE. FRANCIS COLLINS – DIRECTOR, ON GOV'T SIDE. BOX: AGAINST BYRD – JDP WILL DISCUSS. PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. HATE BASED TERRORISM. REALITY – OLD HUMAN FLAW TO FOCUS ON PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM US. PERSON BEING DRAGGED TO HIS DEATH BECAUSE BLACK OR GAY. SHOT BECAUSE HE'S PHILIPPINO/ JEWISH. FACE THE FACT THAT THIS IS HAPPENING IN OUR COUNTRY. NOT THE AMERICAN WAY. CELEBRATE DIVERSITY, NOT JUST TOLERATE IT. WE HAVE TO REJECT THESE ACTS. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO PASS HATE CRIMES. WHITE HOUSE OFFICE – RELIG LEADERS, CORP LEADERS TO LAWYERS. 8TH TIME HAD HIGH MOMENT. DID IT GET SENT OUT AS STATE OF THE UNION. * LOOK AT MILLENNIUM SPEECH AS DELIVERED. WE SEE GREAT EXPANSE OF AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENT. BEHIND US EVEN LARGER FRONTIERS OF POSSIBILITY. THEN WORK CLOSING. LET'S LOOK MILLENNIUM. DREAMS ARE WHERE ARE MEMORIES – AS LONG AS OUR DREAMS OUTWEIGH OUR MEMORIES, WE CAN BE FOREVER YOUNG. AMERICA MUST BE FOREVER YOUNG. AGING; LET'S LOOK AT WELFARE ROLLS – 6.8 MILLION OFF OF WELFARE. RILEY – HOW MANY HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS. HOW MANY HAVE HEALTHCARE INSURANCE MOVE FROM JOB TO JOB – KENNEDY KASSEBAUM. MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HELPED. 90 PERCENT OF KIDS IMMUNIZED. WHAT WE DID W/ KENNEDY KASSEBAUM. STILL TOO MANY UNINSURED. POSITIVE LOOK. MORE

LIKE... HOMEBUILDERS, CARS. CHECK ON 3 BILLION INCREASE. NSF, NIH, ONE YEAR/ THREE YEARS. LOSE KENNEDY. TIGHTEN AMERICORPS. CHALLENGE SENIORS TO DO MORE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE. PUT THEM TO WORK. LIVE LONG, DO SOMETHING. ERIC LANDER: DECIDE ON MAKING REFERENCE. FRANCIS COLLINS – DIRECTOR, ON GOV'T SIDE. BOX: AGAINST BYRD – JDP WILL DISCUSS. PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. HATE BASED TERRORISM. REALITY – OLD HUMAN FLAW TO FOCUS ON PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM US. PERSON BEING DRAGGED TO HIS DEATH BECAUSE BLACK OR GAY. SHOT BECAUSE HE'S PHILIPPINO/ JEWISH. FACE THE FACT THAT THIS IS HAPPENING IN OUR COUNTRY. NOT THE AMERICAN WAY. CELEBRATE DIVERSITY, NOT JUST TOLERATE IT. WE HAVE TO REJECT THESE ACTS. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO PASS HATE CRIMES. WHITE HOUSE OFFICE – RELIG LEADERS, CORP LEADERS TO LAWYERS. 8TH TIME HAD HIGH MOMENT. DID IT GET SENT OUT AS STATE OF THE UNION. * LOOK AT MILLENNIUM SPEECH AS DELIVERED. WE SEE GREAT EXPANSE OF AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENT. BEHIND US EVEN LARGER FRONTIERS OF POSSIBILITY. THEN WORK CLOSING. LET'S LOOK MILLENNIUM. DREAMS ARE WHERE ARE MEMORIES – AS LONG AS OUR DREAMS OUTWEIGH OUR MEMORIES, WE CAN BE FOREVER YOUNG. AMERICA MUST BE FOREVER YOUNG. AGING; LET'S LOOK AT WELFARE ROLLS – 6.8 MILLION OFF OF WELFARE. RILEY – HOW MANY HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS. HOW MANY HAVE HEALTHCARE INSURANCE MOVE FROM JOB TO JOB – KENNEDY KASSEBAUM. MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HELPED. 90 PERCENT OF KIDS IMMUNIZED. WHAT WE DID W/ KENNEDY KASSEBAUM. STILL TOO MANY UNINSURED. POSITIVE LOOK. MORE

WOMEN WORKING – STILL MAKING ONLY 75. IN THE BEGINNING, MORE DRAMA ABOUT NEVER IN OUR LIFETIME HAVE WE HAD IT SO GOOD... WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE OUT OF DEBT. 2.000 DEBT MORTGAGES. REAL CAR PAYMENTS. IF WE CAN GET OUT OF DEBT, IMAGINE POSSIBILITIES FOR THOSE RESOURCES.]

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles – cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon – from the laboratory to the showroom floor. [THESE ARE NOT THREE NEW EFFORTS; 2 NEW. THIRD IS NOT. AUTO INDUSTRY – GRAPH NEEDS TO BE MORE UPBEAT AND PRETTY. MOVE TO TECHNOLOGY SECTION. CLEAN ENERGY/ TECHNOLOGY. CLOSING LOOPHOLE: HOW, WHO'S PISSED OFF, WHAT'S OUR ANSWER. THIRD ONE: WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO CLEAN ENERGY. WE CAN GIVE 2

WOMEN WORKING – STILL MAKING ONLY 75. IN THE BEGINNING, MORE DRAMA ABOUT NEVER IN OUR LIFETIME HAVE WE HAD IT SO GOOD... WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE OUT OF DEBT. 2.000 DEBT MORTGAGES. REAL CAR PAYMENTS. IF WE CAN GET OUT OF DEBT, IMAGINE POSSIBILITIES FOR THOSE RESOURCES.]

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles – cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon – from the laboratory to the showroom floor. [THESE ARE NOT THREE NEW EFFORTS; 2 NEW. THIRD IS NOT. AUTO INDUSTRY – GRAPH NEEDS TO BE MORE UPBEAT AND PRETTY. MOVE TO TECHNOLOGY SECTION. CLEAN ENERGY/ TECHNOLOGY. CLOSING LOOPHOLE: HOW, WHO'S PISSED OFF, WHAT'S OUR ANSWER. THIRD ONE: WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO CLEAN ENERGY. WE CAN GIVE 2

EXAMPLES. ONE IS THE CAR THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS. DETROIT PROVING WE CAN DO THIS. TALK ABOUT ON THESE CARS GETTING 70-80 MPG. ALSO, TALK ABOUT HOUSING PROJECT IN SAN BERNADINO. APPLAUD DOE AND EPA. THEIR UTILITY BILLS DROPPED BY 40- PERCENT. NOW IT'S 65 PERCENT. TODAY TEHRE'S OUTDATED WAY OF THINKING ABOUT IT. YOU CAN'T BE RICH UNLESS YOU FOUL ENVIRONMENT. THEN ONCE YOU GET RICH YOU CLEAN IT UP. THIS DOESN'T WORK BECAUSE THE POLLUTANTS STAY IN THE AIR 100 YEARS. GOOD NEWS IS THIS IS A BIG IDEA THAT'S WRONG. IT'S SIMPLY NOT NECESSARY ANYMORE TO FOUL THE ENVIRONMENT TO GET RICH THANKS TO SCIENCE AND TECH. WILL INCLUDE CARS AND HOUSING PROJECT.]

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles. They promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life. [LOSE FIRST GRAPH. NEED NEW SETUP]

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for

EXAMPLES. ONE IS THE CAR THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS. DETROIT PROVING WE CAN DO THIS. TALK ABOUT ON THESE CARS GETTING 70-80 MPG. ALSO, TALK ABOUT HOUSING PROJECT IN SAN BERNADINO. APPLAUD DOE AND EPA. THEIR UTILITY BILLS DROPPED BY 40- PERCENT. NOW IT'S 65 PERCENT. TODAY TEHRE'S OUTDATED WAY OF THINKING ABOUT IT. YOU CAN'T BE RICH UNLESS YOU FOUL ENVIRONMENT. THEN ONCE YOU GET RICH YOU CLEAN IT UP. THIS DOESN'T WORK BECAUSE THE POLLUTANTS STAY IN THE AIR 100 YEARS. GOOD NEWS IS THIS IS A BIG IDEA THAT'S WRONG. IT'S SIMPLY NOT NECESSARY ANYMORE TO FOUL THE ENVIRONMENT TO GET RICH THANKS TO SCIENCE AND TECH. WILL INCLUDE CARS AND HOUSING PROJECT.]

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles. They promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life. [LOSE FIRST GRAPH. NEED NEW SETUP]

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for

cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress. [ADD SOMETHING ABOUT GENES AND BREAST CANCER AND BREAKTHROUGH ON PARKINSONS. MICHAEL J. FOX OR REEVE OR BOB SQUIRE. GRAPH ON BENEFITS OF SPACE AND BENEFITS HERE ON EARTH. -- GET POLICY].

With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

*life expectancy
47 to 74 not just living longer but healthier.*

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

These and other technologies could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research,

cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress. [ADD SOMETHING ABOUT GENES AND BREAST CANCER AND BREAKTHROUGH ON PARKINSONS. MICHAEL J. FOX OR REEVE OR BOB SQUIRE. GRAPH ON BENEFITS OF SPACE AND BENEFITS HERE ON EARTH. - GET POLICY].

With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

life expectancy
47 to 74 not just living longer but better

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

These and other technologies could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research,

nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it. [HE WANTS TO KNOW IF THIS IS FOR ONE ? YEAR. NSF, NIH, ETC.]

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in

nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it. [HE WANTS TO KNOW IF THIS IS FOR ONE ? YEAR. NSF, NIH, ETC.]

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in

history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good. [GET RID OF KENNEDY QUOTE]

SENIORS W/ BIOMED. MORE ON LIFE EXPECTANCY. PEOPLE SHOULD NOT ONLY LIVE LONGER, BUT WELL. AGING.

COMMUNITY

In 1835, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

[TOO MANY WORDS AND NO MEAT. CHALLENGE SENIORS TO WORK W/KIDS.]

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income

history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good. [GET RID OF KENNEDY QUOTE]

SENIORS W/ BIOMED. MORE ON LIFE EXPECTANCY. PEOPLE SHOULD NOT ONLY LIVE LONGER, BUT WELL. AGING.

COMMUNITY

In 1835, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

[TOO MANY WORDS AND NO MEAT. CHALLENGE SENIORS TO WORK W/KIDS.]

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America's leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight. Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us all.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot ignore the hatred that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas. Rather than give into hate, the Byrd family transformed their hate to a new foundation for racial reconciliation. We're honored to have [TK Byrd] with us tonight.

[HE SAID LIKED WORKING IN FOREIGN STUFF HERE. JUST REFERENCING
OK. WE SEE ALL ETHNIC PROBLEMS IN WORLD. FR NORTHERN IRELAND TO
BOSNIA TO MIDDLE EAST.. AND MENTION TERRORISM, BUT NO COUNTRY IS

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America's leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight. Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us all.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot ignore the hatred that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas. Rather than give into hate, the Byrd family transformed their hate to a new foundation for racial reconciliation. We're honored to have [TK Byrd] with us tonight.

[HE SAID LIKED WORKING IN FOREIGN STUFF HERE. JUST REFERENCING
OK. WE SEE ALL ETHNIC PROBLEMS IN WORLD. FR NORTHERN IRELAND TO
BOSNIA TO MIDDLE EAST.. AND MENTION TERRORISM, BUT NO COUNTRY IS

EXEMPT. WE HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT IN THIS COUNTRY THE SAME STUFF HAPPENS. THE DRAGGING DEATH IN TEXAS. MURDER OF GAY MAN IN WYOMING. WE HAVE SEEN SHOOTING AND KILLINGS OF, AMERICANS OF AF AM, PHILLIPINO, KOREAN AMER, JEWISH, (SEE IF YOU CAN FIND MUSLIM). THIS IS IN OUR COUNTRY AND WE MUST MAKE CLEAR THIS IS NOT THE AMERICAN WAY. WE DON'T' JUST TOLERATE OUR DIVERSITY, WE CELEBRATE IT. WE HAVE TO PROTECT IT.]

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every

EXEMPT. WE HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT IN THIS COUNTRY THE SAME STUFF HAPPENS. THE DRAGGING DEATH IN TEXAS. MURDER OF GAY MAN IN WYOMING. WE HAVE SEEN SHOOTING AND KILLINGS OF, AMERICANS OF AF AM, PHILLIPINO, KOREAN AMER, JEWISH, (SEE IF YOU CAN FIND MUSLIM). THIS IS IN OUR COUNTRY AND WE MUST MAKE CLEAR THIS IS NOT THE AMERICAN WAY. WE DON'T' JUST TOLERATE OUR DIVERSITY, WE CELEBRATE IT. WE HAVE TO PROTECT IT.]

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every

American can help build the One America of our dreams. [RELIGIOUS LEADERS BEFORE LAWYERS IN LITANY]

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

My fellow Americans, this is the seventh EIGHTH? time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, vast frontiers of possibility yet to be explored. [AND BEFORE US, EVEN LARGER FRONTEIRS OF POSSIBLITY]

The children of the future will see: generations of Americans earned this moment – earned this opportunity – and we have an obligation to make the most of it. Not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to these unprecedented heights of prosperity and peace. And we can only imagine the heights to which we will climb in this new century. [WORDY, BUT I LIKE IT]

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a

American can help build the One America of our dreams. [RELIGIOUS LEADERS BEFORE
LAWYERS IN LITANY]

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

My fellow Americans, this is the seventh EIGHTH? time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, vast frontiers of possibility yet to be explored. [AND BEFORE US, EVEN LARGER FRONTEIRS OF POSSIBLITY]

The children of the future will see: generations of Americans earned this moment – earned this opportunity – and we have an obligation to make the most of it. Not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to these unprecedented heights of prosperity and peace. And we can only imagine the heights to which we will climb in this new century. [WORDY, BUT I LIKE IT]

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a

new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

[REPRISING MILLENNIAL END. SEE DNC SPEECH. DREAMS OUTWEIGH MEMORIES. FOREVER YOUNG. DESTINY OF AMERICA TO BE FOREVER YOUNG. HE WANTS TO PUT: NOT ENOUGH DRAMA IN POSING CHOICE BEFORE US IN NEVER IN OUR LIFETIME RIFF. WORK IN HOW IT'S EASY TO RELAX, ... IT'S EASY TO ... THAT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE. WE HAVE AN OPPT OF A LIFETIME. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LIFETIME. AND WE CAN CHART THE COURSE IN THE NEXT 50 YEARS. ALSO: WE CAN WORK IN 6.8 MILL OFF WELFARE (GET #); EDUCATION SECTION, WE SHOULD SAY THAT OVER 5 MILLION HAVE USED HOPE SCHOLARSHIP AND LIFETIME LEARNING TAX CREDIT. IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTION, WE SHOULD SET IT UP STARTING W/ ADVANCES IN INSURING PEOPLE. KENNEDY-KASSEBAUM. 90 PERCENT KIDS IMMUNIZED. BUT STIL BELEAGURED. IN SECTION, STUFF TO CHOSE FROM. MORE DRAMA ON DEBT REDUCTION. WE NEED TO SAY: BY REDUCING DEFICIT, WE CUT INTEREST RATES, AVERAGE FAMILY, 200 OFF CAR PAYMENTS, ETC. (GET THOSE NUMBERS). PLAY UP THE DRAMA. GUARENTEE FAR GREATER PROSPERITY. I SAID ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, IF OUR DREAMS OUTWEIGH MEMORIES, WE CAN BE FOREVER YOUNG. AND THAT IS THE DESTINY OF AMERCA.]

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

[REPRISING MILLENNIAL END. SEE DNC SPEECH. DREAMS OUTWEIGH MEMORIES. FOREVER YOUNG. DESTINY OF AMERICA TO BE FOREVER YOUNG. HE WANTS TO PUT: NOT ENOUGH DRAMA IN POSING CHOICE BEFORE US IN NEVER IN OUR LIFETIME RIFF. WORK IN HOW IT'S EASY TO RELAX, ... IT'S EASY TO ... THAT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE. WE HAVE AN OPPT OF A LIFETIME. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LIFETIME. AND WE CAN CHART THE COURSE IN THE NEXT 50 YEARS. ALSO: WE CAN WORK IN 6.8 MILL OFF WELFARE (GET #); EDUCATION SECTION, WE SHOULD SAY THAT OVER 5 MILLION HAVE USED HOPE SCHOLARSHIP AND LIFETIME LEARNING TAX CREDIT. IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTION, WE SHOULD SET IT UP STARTING W/ ADVANCES IN INSURING PEOPLE. KENNEDY-KASSEBAUM. 90 PERCENT KIDS IMMUNIZED. BUT STILL BELEAGUED. IN SECTION, STUFF TO CHOOSE FROM. MORE DRAMA ON DEBT REDUCTION. WE NEED TO SAY: BY REDUCING DEFICIT, WE CUT INTEREST RATES, AVERAGE FAMILY, 200 OFF CAR PAYMENTS, ETC. (GET THOSE NUMBERS). PLAY UP THE DRAMA. GUARANTEE FAR GREATER PROSPERITY. I SAID ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, IF OUR DREAMS OUTWEIGH MEMORIES, WE CAN BE FOREVER YOUNG. AND THAT IS THE DESTINY OF AMERICA.]

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

Since the President took office we have seen a transformation in America's efforts to strengthen our foster care and adoption systems. With the Family and Medical Leave Act, we've helped adoptive parents, and all new parents, take time off to care for their children without fear of losing their jobs or their health insurance. We've put an end to racial discrimination in adoption, prohibiting agencies from denying qualified parents of one race to adopt a child of another.

In 1997, we passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which cut dramatically the amount of time a child can spend in foster care, and set an ambitious goal of doubling the number of annual adoptions by the year 2002. And, as the President was able to announce just a few months ago, in September, we are well on our way to meeting that goal.

But it wasn't long after we passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act that we recognized we needed now to turn our efforts to a new challenge: helping those young people, who never did have the opportunity either to return home or be placed in a permanent family, fulfill their promise in adulthood.

Now, for many Americans, the 18th birthday is an important one. Turning 18 means you can vote. It means you can often go away to get a job or to school. But it should never mean that you're left on your own. For too many young people, turning 18 has been just the beginning of a lonely and sometimes harrowing journey toward adulthood. Just half of all young people who have aged out of foster care complete high school. Fewer than one in three have health care coverage. One in four have been homeless.

Two years ago, I went to California to meet a group of young people who had aged out of foster care. They told me about being forced out of their foster homes on their birthdays; about staying in a cold dorm room alone during the holidays because they had nowhere to go; about getting sick and having no insurance to get any medical care; about having literally no one to call for any kind of help.

They reminded me of the many small things we all take for granted in our own families. One young woman said to me, you know, it's almost Thanksgiving, and I have no one to call and ask how to bake a turkey.

I've been very moved and humbled by the resilience and determination I've seen in the young people I've met. Some of them are standing behind me. One is Joy Warren, who spent all of her teen years in foster care. Yet, she still found the commitment and strength not only to continue her education in college, but to attend the law school and become a powerful voice for foster children around America.

I think of Terry Harak, whom I had the honor of meeting at the White House last January. On her 18th birthday, in the middle of her senior year, she found herself without foster care, without a job and without a place to call home, because the rule has been you're out of foster care if you turn 18 or you finish high school, whichever happens first.

Since the President took office we have seen a transformation in America's efforts to strengthen our foster care and adoption systems. With the Family and Medical Leave Act, we've helped adoptive parents, and all new parents, take time off to care for their children without fear of losing their jobs or their health insurance. We've put an end to racial discrimination in adoption, prohibiting agencies from denying qualified parents of one race to adopt a child of another.

In 1997, we passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which cut dramatically the amount of time a child can spend in foster care, and set an ambitious goal of doubling the number of annual adoptions by the year 2002. And, as the President was able to announce just a few months ago, in September, we are well on our way to meeting that goal.

But it wasn't long after we passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act that we recognized we needed now to turn our efforts to a new challenge: helping those young people, who never did have the opportunity either to return home or be placed in a permanent family, fulfill their promise in adulthood.

Now, for many Americans, the 18th birthday is an important one. Turning 18 means you can vote. It means you can often go away to get a job or to school. But it should never mean that you're left on your own. For too many young people, turning 18 has been just the beginning of a lonely and sometimes harrowing journey toward adulthood. Just half of all young people who have aged out of foster care complete high school. Fewer than one in three have health care coverage. One in four have been homeless.

Two years ago, I went to California to meet a group of young people who had aged out of foster care. They told me about being forced out of their foster homes on their birthdays; about staying in a cold dorm room alone during the holidays because they had nowhere to go; about getting sick and having no insurance to get any medical care; about having literally no one to call for any kind of help.

They reminded me of the many small things we all take for granted in our own families. One young woman said to me, you know, it's almost Thanksgiving, and I have no one to call and ask how to bake a turkey.

I've been very moved and humbled by the resilience and determination I've seen in the young people I've met. Some of them are standing behind me. One is Joy Warren, who spent all of her teen years in foster care. Yet, she still found the commitment and strength not only to continue her education in college, but to attend the law school and become a powerful voice for foster children around America.

I think of Terry Harak, whom I had the honor of meeting at the White House last January. On her 18th birthday, in the middle of her senior year, she found herself without foster care, without a job and without a place to call home, because the rule has been you're out of foster care if you turn 18 or you finish high school, whichever happens first.

But Terry didn't give up. She spent the night at teachers' and friends' houses and metro terminals, even in hospital emergency rooms. And every morning she would wake up and get herself to school. And last June she graduated and today she is working and is a student in college.

But for every Terry or every Joy or any of the other success stories behind me, think of all those young people who don't finish high school and who risk slipping through the cracks of our society. That is why, last winter, I was very pleased to unveil a new proposal in the President's budget that would extend the foster care safety net to the young people who have aged out of the foster care system, but still need our help. And today I'm very pleased that that bill is about to become law.

The Foster Care Independence Act recognizes one fundamental principle: All of us must take responsibility for helping these young people build lives worthy of their spirit and potential. From this day forward we say to all Americans, no young person, especially those who have not known the support of a safe, loving, permanent family, should have to make the passage to adulthood alone.

This has been a truly

bipartisan achievement. And I want to thank everyone in Congress who helped, the former foster children who stepped forward to make their stories known, the newspapers and television stations that publicized their plight, the researchers who backed up their heartbreaking stories with hard statistics, and the advocates and private citizens who lobbied the Congress. In this season of giving, I can think of no better gift to give our children and our future.

Now I'm very proud to introduce two people who can tell us why this law is so important. Alfred Perez is one of the eloquent young people I met two years ago in California. He will speak first. He will be followed by Kristi Jo Frazier, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Both of them will tell us more about their challenges, and even more importantly, about their capacity to persist, their resilience, and their triumphs.

Please welcome Alfred Perez.

* * * *

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you, please be seated. At this moment, about all I can think of is, Merry Christmas.

Senator Rockefeller, Senator Collins, Representative Cardin, thank you all for being here. And, Senator Chafee, thank you for being here, and with you, the spirit of your father, for all his great work on this.

I want to say a special word of thanks to our Mayor, Tony Williams, and his mom, Mrs. Virginia Williams. He has become America's Exhibit A of the potential for foster care success.

But Terry didn't give up. She spent the night at teachers' and friends' houses and metro terminals, even in hospital emergency rooms. And every morning she would wake up and get herself to school. And last June she graduated and today she is working and is a student in college.

But for every Terry or every Joy or any of the other success stories behind me, think of all those young people who don't finish high school and who risk slipping through the cracks of our society. That is why, last winter, I was very pleased to unveil a new proposal in the President's budget that would extend the foster care safety net to the young people who have aged out of the foster care system, but still need our help. And today I'm very pleased that that bill is about to become law.

The Foster Care Independence Act recognizes one fundamental principle: All of us must take responsibility for helping these young people build lives worthy of their spirit and potential. From this day forward we say to all Americans, no young person, especially those who have not known the support of a safe, loving, permanent family, should have to make the passage to adulthood alone.

This has been a truly

bipartisan achievement. And I want to thank everyone in Congress who helped, the former foster children who stepped forward to make their stories known, the newspapers and television stations that publicized their plight, the researchers who backed up their heartbreaking stories with hard statistics, and the advocates and private citizens who lobbied the Congress. In this season of giving, I can think of no better gift to give our children and our future.

Now I'm very proud to introduce two people who can tell us why this law is so important. Alfred Perez is one of the eloquent young people I met two years ago in California. He will speak first. He will be followed by Kristi Jo Frazier, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Both of them will tell us more about their challenges, and even more importantly, about their capacity to persist, their resilience, and their triumphs.

Please welcome Alfred Perez.

* * * *

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you, please be seated. At this moment, about all I can think of is, Merry Christmas.

Senator Rockefeller, Senator Collins, Representative Cardin, thank you all for being here. And, Senator Chafee, thank you for being here, and with you, the spirit of your father, for all his great work on this.

I want to say a special word of thanks to our Mayor, Tony Williams, and his mom, Mrs. Virginia Williams. He has become America's Exhibit A of the potential for foster care success.

He is a good man and she is a magnificent woman, and we thank them for being here. Thank you.

I thank Secretary Shalala and all of her staff. And I thank Alfred Perez and Kristi Jo Frazier, and the other young people behind me, for whom they spoke. They spoke so well and so bravely and so frankly. What they have achieved in their own lives is truly heroic, and we should all be very grateful that they are determined to make that kind of difference in the lives of other young people.

I want to thank the groups that have done so much to champion the cause of foster children -- the Child Welfare League of America, the Children's Defense Fund, the Annie Casey Foundation, the Casey Family Program. I want to thank especially -- I won't mention them, but they know who they are -- the people who have come up to me personally and lobbied me on this issue over the last couple of years.

I've got a cousin that's been a friend of mine over 50 years, all my life; we were little kids together. She runs a public housing program in the little town in Arkansas where we were born. And she came up here to a HUD conference on kids aging out of foster care. And she spent the night with me at the White House. I got up the next morning -- I never know, you know, what's on her mind -- this is about a year ago. And she said, Bill, you have got to do something about these kids that are aging out of foster care. She said, it's a huge problem in New York and California, but believe it or not, it's a problem at home, too. And nobody's doing anything about it. I want to thank all those people, and they know who they are.

And most of all, I want to thank Hillary. When we were in law school, she worked at the Yale Child Studies Center. Her first job was with what became the Children's Defense Fund. When I became governor, in my first term she founded the Arkansas Advocates for Families and Children. She has always cared more about the welfare of all of our children than anything else, and our mutual responsibilities to them. And she challenged us a long time ago not to forget those foster children who leave the system each year with no financial or emotional support, no one to turn to. She put a lot of herself into getting this bill passed.

Hillary likes to quote the Chilean poet and teacher, Gabriela Mistral, about our responsibility to children: "Many things we need can wait. The child cannot. Now is the time his bones are formed, his mind is developed. To him, we cannot say 'tomorrow.' His name is 'today.'"

We are here today because all of you, and especially the members of Congress from both parties, stood as one to say that America's foster children can finally have the name, 'today.'

The Foster Care Independence Act expands access to health care, education, housing and counseling for young people who must leave foster care when they turn 18. For the very first time, states will be able to pay housing costs and health insurance for people under 21.

The bill also gives states more resources and flexibility to help former foster children finish high school and go on to college; to help young people get jobs and vocational training; to

He is a good man and she is a magnificent woman, and we thank them for being here. Thank you.

I thank Secretary Shalala and all of her staff. And I thank Alfred Perez and Kristi Jo Frazier, and the other young people behind me, for whom they spoke. They spoke so well and so bravely and so frankly. What they have achieved in their own lives is truly heroic, and we should all be very grateful that they are determined to make that kind of difference in the lives of other young people.

I want to thank the groups that have done so much to champion the cause of foster children -- the Child Welfare League of America, the Children's Defense Fund, the Annie Casey Foundation, the Casey Family Program. I want to thank especially -- I won't mention them, but they know who they are -- the people who have come up to me personally and lobbied me on this issue over the last couple of years.

I've got a cousin that's been a friend of mine over 50 years, all my life; we were little kids together. She runs a public housing program in the little town in Arkansas where we were born. And she came up here to a HUD conference on kids aging out of foster care. And she spent the night with me at the White House. I got up the next morning -- I never know, you know, what's on her mind -- this is about a year ago. And she said, Bill, you have got to do something about these kids that are aging out of foster care. She said, it's a huge problem in New York and California, but believe it or not, it's a problem at home, too. And nobody's doing anything about it. I want to thank all those people, and they know who they are.

And most of all, I want to thank Hillary. When we were in law school, she worked at the Yale Child Studies Center. Her first job was with what became the Children's Defense Fund. When I became governor, in my first term she founded the Arkansas Advocates for Families and Children. She has always cared more about the welfare of all of our children than anything else, and our mutual responsibilities to them. And she challenged us a long time ago not to forget those foster children who leave the system each year with no financial or emotional support, no one to turn to. She put a lot of herself into getting this bill passed.

Hillary likes to quote the Chilean poet and teacher, Gabriela Mistral, about our responsibility to children: "Many things we need can wait. The child cannot. Now is the time his bones are formed, his mind is developed. To him, we cannot say 'tomorrow.' His name is 'today.'"

We are here today because all of you, and especially the members of Congress from both parties, stood as one to say that America's foster children can finally have the name, 'today.'

The Foster Care Independence Act expands access to health care, education, housing and counseling for young people who must leave foster care when they turn 18. For the very first time, states will be able to pay housing costs and health insurance for people under 21.

The bill also gives states more resources and flexibility to help former foster children finish high school and go on to college; to help young people get jobs and vocational training; to

handguns. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states have licenses for gun purchasers as well.

[I'd like to see that]

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books. I say, we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we should do more. We must hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

Manser

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. It's time for the gun industry to take responsibility too, and reform the way it does business -- and help bring down gun violence in America.

Another vital measure we can take to reduce the crime rate is to provide more supervision, and demand more responsibility, from the hundreds of thousands of offenders who leave our prisons every year. We know that those on parole or probation who use drugs are [tk]-times more likely than others to commit another crime, but half as likely to do so if they get drug treatment. We must provide them that drug treatment, along with drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

[]

The tragic school shootings in Littleton and elsewhere have been a terrible reminder of how vulnerable our children are to violence—and how much more we must do, at all levels of society, to protect them. Last year, I launched a national grassroots campaign to bring experts and local communities together to identify the most effective responses to youth violence. We also began funding efforts by local communities to develop comprehensive solutions to school violence, and this year we must increase our support of this vital endeavor.

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, ^{Talk the industry to} we must go farther. Let's give parents what they most need: ^{voluntary} ~~one~~ rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has championed this idea, and been a champion of children and families as long as I have known her, your First Lady and my wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

a single,

handguns. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states have licenses for gun purchasers as well.

[Idiot to regulate]

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books. I say, we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we should do more. We must hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

MAKER

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. It's time for the gun industry to take responsibility too, and reform the way it does business -- and help bring down gun violence in America.

Another vital measure we can take to reduce the crime rate is to provide more supervision, and demand more responsibility, from the hundreds of thousands of offenders who leave our prisons every year. We know that those on parole or probation who use drugs are [tk]-times more likely than others to commit another crime, but half as likely to do so if they get drug treatment. We must provide them that drug treatment, along with drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

h

The tragic school shootings in Littleton and elsewhere have been a terrible reminder of how vulnerable our children are to violence—and how much more we must do, at all levels of society, to protect them. Last year, I launched a national grassroots campaign to bring experts and local communities together to identify the most effective responses to youth violence. We also began funding efforts by local communities to develop comprehensive solutions to school violence, and this year we must increase our support of this vital endeavor.

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, ^{Talk the industry to} we must go farther. Let's give parents what they most need: ^{voluntary} ~~one~~ rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has championed this idea, and been a champion of children and families as long as I have known her, your First Lady and my wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

a single,

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. And because of new technologies, we also have the opportunity to do so in ways that enhance economic growth.

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. And because of new technologies, we also have the opportunity to do so in ways that enhance economic growth.

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles – cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon – from the laboratory to the showroom floor.

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles. They promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life.

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

These and other technologies could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it.

Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles – cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon – from the laboratory to the showroom floor.

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles. They promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life.

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

These and other technologies could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it.

provide counseling for young people learning to live on their own -- you've already heard how important that is -- and above all, to make sure young adults leaving foster care know they are not out there alone.

The bill makes \$700 million available to the states over five years under very flexible conditions. I challenge the states to use every penny of it. And I know I can depend upon the advocates here -- (laughter) -- to make sure they do.

You also have to help the states, though -- to design good programs, to implement them so the money will be spent with maximum impact. We simply cannot afford to have our high school students sleeping in metro stations, as some of these young people had to do.

We cannot afford to lose our future entrepreneurs and teachers and lawyers to the kinds of obstacles the young people behind me have faced. We can't afford to give up on the future, and these young people are a big part of our future, and our shared responsibility.

We have tried to help America's most vulnerable children grow up healthy and safe, to make the transition into happy, productive adults. We've tried to encourage adoption so that we can end the sadness of young people shuttling from house to house and never knowing a home. We've made adoptions easier and more affordable, given states more flexibility, passed incentive programs for states to promote adoption. These worked so well we actually ran out of money to reward the states.

I'm pleased that this bill also authorizes additional funds that program needs, because it is working. Our most recent figures show that adoptions are up 29 percent, the first significant increase in two decades.

Now, when we get to the end of the session, sometimes we have to combine a bunch of things in bills, just to get all our work done. And I want to mention one other thing this bill does that is unrelated to young people aging out of foster care or to adoption. This bill includes a provision to honor and assist veterans from other lands who fought with and as a part of the United States Armed Forces during World War II. It creates a special cash benefit under Social Security for veterans who want to leave the United States and return to their homelands.

We have 10 such veterans, 10 Filipino veterans, who are here with us today. I want to thank them for their service, and I ask them to stand and be recognized. We thank you.

So this bill keeps a promise to our children and a promise to our veterans. It was passed with overwhelming support from both parties, proving that we can put partisanship aside, and when we do, it's good for America.

I hope that we will see more of this in the new year. I hope that we can use the historic millennial year to take the rest of the steps we need to deal with the aging of America, by securing Social Security and Medicare, to give our children health coverage, to raise the minimum wage, to pass the common-sense legislation on gun safety and hate crimes, to do the things that we need to do to support working family, including the patients' bill of rights.

provide counseling for young people learning to live on their own -- you've already heard how important that is -- and above all, to make sure young adults leaving foster care know they are not out there alone.

The bill makes \$700 million available to the states over five years under very flexible conditions. I challenge the states to use every penny of it. And I know I can depend upon the advocates here -- (laughter) -- to make sure they do.

You also have to help the states, though -- to design good programs, to implement them so the money will be spent with maximum impact. We simply cannot afford to have our high school students sleeping in metro stations, as some of these young people had to do.

We cannot afford to lose our future entrepreneurs and teachers and lawyers to the kinds of obstacles the young people behind me have faced. We can't afford to give up on the future, and these young people are a big part of our future, and our shared responsibility.

We have tried to help America's most vulnerable children grow up healthy and safe, to make the transition into happy, productive adults. We've tried to encourage adoption so that we can end the sadness of young people shuttling from house to house and never knowing a home. We've made adoptions easier and more affordable, given states more flexibility, passed incentive programs for states to promote adoption. These worked so well we actually ran out of money to reward the states.

I'm pleased that this bill also authorizes additional funds that program needs, because it is working. Our most recent figures show that adoptions are up 29 percent, the first significant increase in two decades.

Now, when we get to the end of the session, sometimes we have to combine a bunch of things in bills, just to get all our work done. And I want to mention one other thing this bill does that is unrelated to young people aging out of foster care or to adoption. This bill includes a provision to honor and assist veterans from other lands who fought with and as a part of the United States Armed Forces during World War II. It creates a special cash benefit under Social Security for veterans who want to leave the United States and return to their homelands.

We have 10 such veterans, 10 Filipino veterans, who are here with us today. I want to thank them for their service, and I ask them to stand and be recognized. We thank you.

So this bill keeps a promise to our children and a promise to our veterans. It was passed with overwhelming support from both parties, proving that we can put partisanship aside, and when we do, it's good for America.

I hope that we will see more of this in the new year. I hope that we can use the historic millennial year to take the rest of the steps we need to deal with the aging of America, by securing Social Security and Medicare, to give our children health coverage, to raise the minimum wage, to pass the common-sense legislation on gun safety and hate crimes, to do the things that we need to do to support working family, including the patients' bill of rights.

the professor. It will ^{help raise salaries for good teachers, and we can ensure a salary} ~~reward good teachers~~ ^{train principals as leaders} and get rid of bad ones. [And we must finish the job of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size.] ~~redundant~~

We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose new investments to make immediate, urgent repairs to ~~our~~ schools. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name. [8,000]

move TO p. 4 [We know that we must turnaround failing schools – or shut them down. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts the resources to do so. This year, let's double that investment. Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice. ~~Let's~~ And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

We must also do more to help high school students prepare for, and succeed in, college. We must increase tutoring and mentoring efforts, bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via the Internet, and offer disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. [TK, Schumer/college tax ideas]

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. [I would add "the working family," for it is through work that we support our families, and pass on our values to our children.] That is why the basic goal of so much of what we have done -- from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage -- has been to encourage and reward work; to give more opportunities for a better life to all families responsible enough to work for it. ?

Simply put: When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should ^{happen} follow. To your standard of living, to your savings, to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for low-income working families. The "E" in "EITC" is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to dramatically expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans in 1998 work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993. ?

Tonight I propose that we expand opportunity by substantially expanding the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that this tax credit rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work, and expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That's enough for the average family to pay three months' mortgage or eight months of health care

profession. It will ^{help raise salaries for good teachers, and we can ensure a small} ~~pay raise~~ ^{reward good teachers} people to teaching, ^{the} ~~train principals as leaders~~ and get rid of bad ones. [And we must finish the job of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size.] ^{redundant}

We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that ^[\$, 000] a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose new investments to make immediate, urgent repairs to ~~our~~ schools. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

MOVE TO p. 4 [We know that we must turnaround failing schools – or shut them down. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts the resources to do so. This year, let's double that investment. Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice. ~~Let's~~ And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

We must also do more to help high school students prepare for, and succeed in, college. We must increase tutoring and mentoring efforts, bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via the Internet, and offer disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. [TK, Schumer/college tax ideas]

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. [I would add "the working family," for it is through work that we support our families, and pass on our values to our children.] That is why the basic goal of so much of what we have done -- from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage -- has been to encourage and reward work; to give more opportunities for a better life to all families responsible enough to work for it. ?

Simply put: When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should ^{happen} follow. To your standard of living, to your savings, to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for low-income working families. The "E" in "EITC" is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to dramatically expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans in 1998 work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993. ?

Tonight I propose that we expand opportunity by substantially expanding the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that this tax credit rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work, and expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That's enough for the average family to pay three months' mortgage or eight months of health care

These young people here should give us all a lot of courage -- and a lot of heart. They represent, out of the most difficult circumstances, the very best not only of our country, but of what is at the core of human nature. And in this special season for so many of the world's great religious faiths, we should be very grateful for the gifts they have given us, the gifts they will give us, and the gifts so many other children will be able to give because of this legislation.

Thank you very much.

Now I'd like to ask the members of Congress to come up here, we'll sign the bill.

(The bill is signed.)

END 6:20 P.M. EST

These young people here should give us all a lot of courage -- and a lot of heart. They represent, out of the most difficult circumstances, the very best not only of our country, but of what is at the core of human nature. And in this special season for so many of the world's great religious faiths, we should be very grateful for the gifts they have given us, the gifts they will give us, and the gifts so many other children will be able to give because of this legislation.

Thank you very much.

Now I'd like to ask the members of Congress to come up here, we'll sign the bill.

(The bill is signed.)

END 6:20 P.M. EST

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good.

COMMUNITY

In 1835, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income Americans who give deserve what wealthier Americans can get: a tax deduction for contributions to charity.

We can also do more to bring communities of faith into the circle of service. Faith-based organizations work tirelessly everyday to help Americans fight drug and alcohol abuse and to provide opportunities for young people to get back on the right track or to stay out of trouble in the first place. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups.

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good.

COMMUNITY

In 1835, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income Americans who give deserve what wealthier Americans can get: a tax deduction for contributions to charity.

We can also do more to bring communities of faith into the circle of service. Faith-based organizations work tirelessly everyday to help Americans fight drug and alcohol abuse and to provide opportunities for young people to get back on the right track or to stay out of trouble in the first place. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups.

We can do even more to elevate the cause of citizen service. When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

FDR

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America's leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight. Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems

We can do even more to elevate the cause of citizen service. When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

FDR

From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America's leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight. Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems

to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us all.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot ignore the hatred that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas. Rather than give into hate, the Byrd family transformed their hate to a new foundation for racial reconciliation. We're honored to have [TK Byrd] with us tonight.

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

My fellow Americans, this is the seventh time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, vast frontiers of possibility yet to be explored.

The children of the future will see: generations of Americans earned this moment – earned this opportunity – and we have an obligation to make the most of it. Not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to these unprecedented heights of prosperity and peace. And we can only imagine the heights to which we will climb in this new century.

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession

to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us all.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot ignore the hatred that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas. Rather than give into hate, the Byrd family transformed their hate to a new foundation for racial reconciliation. We're honored to have [TK Byrd] with us tonight.

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

My fellow Americans, this is the seventh time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, vast frontiers of possibility yet to be explored.

The children of the future will see: generations of Americans earned this moment – earned this opportunity – and we have an obligation to make the most of it. Not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to these unprecedented heights of prosperity and peace. And we can only imagine the heights to which we will climb in this new century.

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession

of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.